Ann Arbor Observer

December 2008

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Instructor Cindy Hollander takes students through the process of making this attractive, moderately difficult, origami model. The six piece modular Omega star is often used as a holiday ornament or gift and once learned, is fun to teach to others.

Midnight Madness

Friday, December 5th, 6pm until Midnight:

The madness stretches all the way from Kerrytown Market & Shops to Ann Street & Fourth Avenue where shops are open until Midnight. You'll find live music and festive activities throughout the neighborhood.

DECEMBER SATURDAYS

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Saturdays are festive inside Kerrytown with strolling musicians from the likes of the Ann Arbor Consort, guitarists and choirs from the community; 11am until 2pm.

Santa Visits on December 12th & 19th

Santa will be visiting Kerrytown Market & Shops during the Ann Arbor Farmer's Market inside Kerrytown Market & Shops. Free. For more information contact 734-662-5008

Scotch Whiskey Intensive

Wednesday, December 10th, Arrive 7pm

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Dinner at the Market

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Denise & Charlie Baldwin have a combined fat loss of 47 lbs!

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I (Denise) have lost 14 pounds and gained 8 pounds of lean muscle! We are convinced this program will work for everyone! Thank you to all the staff at Fitness Together. You have dramatically improved our lives forever.
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Ann Arbor Observer
1976 ◆ 2008

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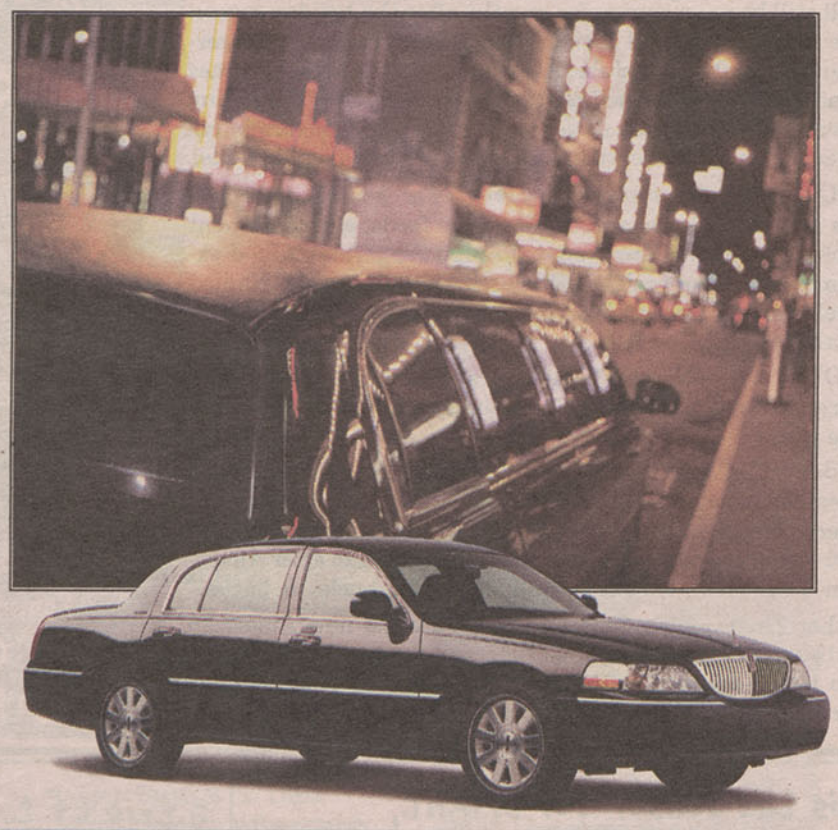
Night on the Town ...



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The Zingerman's Times

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Cranberry Pecan Bread

Available all through December!

It's a perennial favorite for the holidays and sources say this bread is a magic combination of the Bakehouse's popular San Francisco Sourdough, toasty pecans, and dried New England cranberries. Pick up a loaf (or two, or three–they freeze well!) at the Bakehouse, Roadshow and Delicatessen or order from www.zingermans.com.

Coming Soon!

Zingerman's Creamery

Cheshire Raw Milk Cheese

One of England's oldest cheeses, now being produced by John Loomis and the gang and Zingerman's Creamery, the Cheshire is a hard cheese with a moist, crumbly texture and mild, salty flavor. Expected to arrive the first of the year at Zingerman's Deli and Creamery Cheese shop. Ask for a taste!

3rd Annual Holiday Gift Fair
Wednesday, December 10th, 4-7pm at Zingerman's Deli
FREE admission and samples!

Times readers get a head start on holiday shopping with flavorful gifts for the foodies on their lists! Deli specialty food experts will be on hand to answer questions and offer suggestions. Gift wrapping also available.

Zingerman's Roadhouse	2501 Jackson Rd. 734.663.FOOD
Zingerman's Delicatessen	422 Detroit St. 734.663.DELI
Zingerman's Catering and Events	422 Detroit St. 734.663.3400
Zingerman's Bakehouse	3711 Plaza Dr. 734.761.2095
Zingerman's mail order	422 Detroit St. 888.636.8162
roadhouse	PO Box 1837 734.930.1919
Zingerman's Creamery	3723 Plaza Dr. 734.929.0500
Zingerman's Coffee Company	422 Detroit St. 734.929.6060

www.Zingermans.com

zingerman's delivers full-flavored gifts that keep on giving

Times readers shopping for a "tasteful" gift that recipients will still be unwrapping for months after the holiday season are subscribing food loving friends and family to Zingerman's specialty food clubs. Also known as "Z-Clubs," sources confirm these award-winning monthly clubs offer something for every palate, from sweet to savory and all flavors in between. Experts forecast this season's favorites will include:

- **Culinary Adventure Society**—For adventurous eaters and fans of rare and cutting-edge foods, each shipment includes products discovered through Zingerman's food explorers' most up-to-date food research and travels. Named "Delectable Delivery" (best food club) at the 2007 Food Network Awards!
- **Olive Oil** —Named "Best Overall" food club by the *Wall Street Journal*. Featuring rare top notch oils from around the world.
- **Bacon** —Meat lovers rejoice! A collection of some of the greatest tasting, fullest-flavored traditional bacons out there. Zingerman's co-founder Ari Weinzweig predicts: "If you asked me what single ingredient is going to alter American cooking in the next decade, I'd put big bucks on bacon."

Other Zingerman's Food Clubs include the new American Artisan Club, featuring the best small-production food makers in the country. In addition, subcriptions are available for Brownie, Coffeecake, Cheese, Coffee and Bread clubs.

Ship Zingerman's coast to coast! Special holiday hours:
8am-midnight through December 23
Call 888.636.8162 or
go to www.zingermans.com

'tis the season for bright, bold new oils

The Times travel bureau reports that new harvest olive oils from across the globe are arriving at Zingerman's Delicatessen thoughout December. This is a special time of year for fans of the unique pungent pepperiness of *olio nuovo*, as the raw, green intensity of new oils mellows with time. "It's all of the aromas and flavors of being at an olive harvest, distilled into a bottle," enthuses the Deli's retail manager Gauri Thergaonkar. "We bought them a plane ticket so you didn't have to buy yourself one."

New harvest olive oils appearing this month at Zingerman's Deli:

- **Pasolivo Olio Nuovo**
- **Tiburtini Novello**
- **Castillo de Canena** – *First Day of Harvest Pressing*

Enjoy this rare treat soon–quantities are limited!

special blend from local roaster is something to celebrate!

Sources confirm that Zingerman's Coffee Company's special holiday brew – a smooth, fruity blend of bright, lightly roasted Latin American and rich-bodied Yemen Sanani beans – is an excellent way to wrap up a holiday meal, especially when served with treats from the Bakehouse and traditional gelato from the Creamery!

Available at Zingerman's Delicatessen and Next Door coffeeshop, the Bakehouse and Roadhouse, and at www.zingermans.com, while supplies last.

a trio of treats from bakehouse takes sweet eaters 'round the world

Eyewitnesses report *Times* readers are embarking on flights of traditional yuletide flavor in the comfort of their own homes, courtesy of Zingerman's Bakehouse.

Gingerbread Coffeecake is an exotic take on a classic favorite, featuring an adventurous array of ingredients: crystallized and ground ginger from Asia, dark molasses, a bit of brewed coffee, real vanilla from Mexico, a splash of fresh orange juice, Indonesian cinnamon, cloves from the Malacca Islands, and Balinese long pepper.

Panettone is an Italian holiday tradition, naturally leavened with no commercial yeast, baked up fluffy and golden with butter, eggs, vanilla bean, candied fruits, fresh oranges, and almonds. Made according to old-fashioned methods, the Bakehouse loaves have been spotted hanging upside-down to cool in order to keep the dough from sinking into itself.

Reports indicate that old-fashioned German Stollen is one of Ann Arbor's favorite holiday treats and the Bakehouse delivers an incredible rendition made with sweet butter, Bacardi rum, candied lemon and orange peel.

These treats are available at the Bakehouse and Deli for a limited time—Call 734.761.7255 to reserve yours now or ship 'em coast to coast at www.zingermans.com

kick off 2009 with full-flavored favorites at the roadhosuse

Spaces fill fast so make your New Year's Eve dinner and New Year's Day brunch reservations now!
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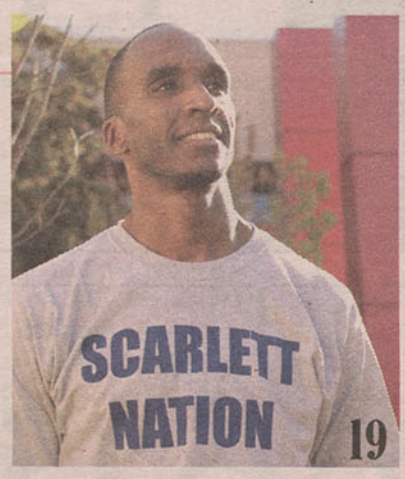

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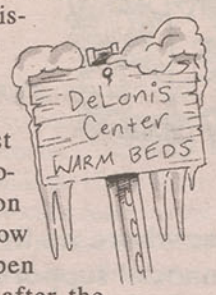
UpFront

Deadly season: Just a year ago, a forty-seven-year-old homeless man was found dead at a park-and-ride lot on Ann Arbor–Saline Road. While no one tracks the grim statistics, people in the homeless "business" say his fate was tragically typical: most winters, at least one local homeless person dies of exposure. How can this still happen twenty-five years after the founding of the Shelter Association, and five years after the opening of the state-of-the-art Delonis Center on Huron?



Director Ellen Schulmeister says the victims are usually hard-core alcoholics who are "really not functioning well enough to make good decisions." Though the fifty-bed Delonis Center is "dry," in cold weather the shelter opens a warming center that accepts active drinkers so long as they can blow 0.10 percent or less on a Breathalyzer. The room has chairs and blankets for fifty people, and any who fail the Breathalyzer test can sober up in the lobby. Yet even with shelter available, some people still shun institutional help—often, at the risk of their lives.

Coach blue: The U-M's miserable football season tested the patience of first-year coach Rich Rodriguez. Fans who attended practices reported hearing a lot of cussing at the young team members by the head coach and his staff. "Bo was a yeller and a swearer on occasion too," says one U-M grad, "but these guys use four-letter words that would make Bo blanch." But in midseason, he continues, the coaches' language suddenly turned much tamer. His theory is that somebody within earshot reported the salty language to university higher-ups. The alum says the wives of the athletic director and head coach often watched the team practice—but, he deadpans, "I doubt if it was Sally Martin or Rita Rodriguez who complained."

Wolverines versus Buckeyes: If you think the Michigan-Ohio conflict has gone badly lately, you should see how it started. That's one takeaway from former *Ann Arbor News* editor Don Faber's new book *The Toledo War: The First Michigan-Ohio Rivalry*. The 1835 dispute, Faber reports, was the first time that Michigan residents were called Wolverines—as an insult—by their neighbors to the south. When Ohio was admitted to the union in 1803, he writes, it unilaterally redrew its northern boundary to include the mouth of the Maumee River. By the time combative territorial governor Stevens T. Mason sent Wolverine militiamen to chase off the Buckeye surveyors in 1835, it was already too late. Though the surveyors fled, Ohio enjoyed overwhelming superiority on the only battlefield that mattered—the U.S. Congress, which ordered Michigan to give up the 470-square-mile "Toledo Strip." Faber celebrates an unsung hero of the debacle: not-yet-official Michigan senator Lucius Lyon, who demanded compensation for the loss—and won what is now the western Upper Peninsula.

What's that light? John Beilein's first year at the helm of Michigan basketball looked like more of the past, only worse. The Wolverines started 4–8, including a loss to perennially awful Harvard—now coached, ironically, by Beilein's predecessor, Tommy Amaker. Michigan went on to lose nine of its first ten conference games, winning only against Northwestern. Beilein's team ended up losing twenty-two games in all—a sort of magical number, since Tommy Amaker had *won* twenty-two games in each of the past two years before he was fired.

With a record like that, fans might assume the only light at the end of the tunnel is from an oncoming train—but they'd be wrong. A weird thing happened at the end of last season: in their final ten conference games the Wolverines were ahead nine times in the latter parts of the contests—and won five, suggesting that Beilein had finally molded the green Wolverines he inherited into something that might be called "competitive." This year Michigan lost center Epke Udoh in a bizarre and pointless transfer to Baylor, but otherwise the team is intact. Recruiting is going well, the players are learning the Beilein system, and they even seem to like each other. For the basketball Wolverines, the light at the end of the tunnel just might be—the light at the end of the tunnel.

Wild ride: In late October the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority voted to become the authority responsible for WALLY—the "Washtenaw and Livingston Line" that may, someday, deliver commuters from Howell to Ann Arbor. Though some board members expressed concern about the commitment of money and time, the vote was unanimous—prompting chair David Nacht to announce, "Choo choo!" The step means the train's promoters can now apply for federal funds. A $500,000 grant is already budgeted—but when it comes to trains, that's small change: it's estimated that WALLY will require $32 million in capital expenditures up front and then $7 million a year to operate. Since fares are projected to bring in only about $2 million a year, AATA may put a new countywide transit millage before voters as early as next August. In the meantime, it's helping to fund a study for a connector system from a future WALLY station that might include a streetcar, and subsidizing some commuter bus routes to other parts of the county. Still unresolved: how to shield AATA from liability if the northbound train never materializes—because it if doesn't, those federal grants will have to be repaid.

A smile and a sale: Ashley Terrace, the new condo at the corner of Huron, has suffered from bad timing and worse architecture (see "The Good, the Ugly, and the Hideous," p. 21). But it's found a persuasive salesman: one of its earliest customers, dentist John Farah. Ready to rid himself of the encumbrances of house, garden, and lawn, Farah, sixty-five, says he put down his deposit almost three years ago, when "there was nothing but a trailer there." And not only did he pay $550,000 for a 1,600-square-foot, two-bedroom, two-bath corner condo on the ninth floor, he subsequently persuaded two friends to buy units as well. One, Farah's cousin, moved from Rochester, Michigan, and is now his ninth-floor neighbor. The other, Farah says, "is renting her unit to a student at the U of M—she really wants to move in, but she hasn't sold her home yet."

Neither, for that matter, has Farah—he's still living in Scio Township. "I tell my friends it costs me a thousand dollars a day every time I park [at Ashley Terrace]," he jokes. "That's the only thing I'm using right now." At least developers Joseph Freed and Associates have shown their gratitude for the referrals: says Farah, "They reimbursed me a thousand bucks each."

Kosher for Christmas: Rabbi Bob Levy knows where to find a lot of his congregants on Christmas morning—at the Michigan Theater, where Temple Beth Emeth will be sponsoring a showing of *Shrek*. Several years ago, the energetic rabbi initiated the Christmas films because, as he puts it, "if you don't celebrate Christmas, there's nothing to do and nowhere to do it." The family-friendly flicks (previous choices include *The Wizard of Oz* and *Fiddler on the Roof*) usually draw several hundred people, including at least a few non-Jews (admission is $6, and everyone is welcome).

The rabbi is well versed on coping mechanisms for a holiday that isn't yours but is impossible to ignore. When his own two daughters were little, Levy says, he had to avoid shopping malls at Christmas after his oldest inquired with interest about the Briarwood Santa. And the temple, like many others, runs "December Dilemmas" workshops to help interfaith couples wrestle with the Hanukkah-Christmas question. But anyone can, in good conscience, enjoy the G-rated movies, for which the rabbi encourages people to dress in character. At a showing of *The Sound of Music* a few Christmases ago, he himself dressed as a "ray of sunshine" from the song "Do-Re-Mi." As it happens, this year's feature has a Jewish connection: *shrek* is Yiddish for "fear."

Horse play: To Ted Kennedy, riding a Clydesdale around Kerrytown is a form of performance art—and his performance atop Duncan, on the afternoon following election day, was a crowd-pleaser. Duncan, rescued from owners in the Upper Peninsula who couldn't afford to feed him any longer, belongs to Dexter Township's Chamberlin Animal Rides—which also provided an alpaca, some goats, and a chicken. All afternoon, Community High students, Farmers' Market customers, neighbors, and passersby stopped at Kennedy's front yard on Kingsley to pet the animals and take rides up and down the block on Duncan. Kennedy, who makes short films and takes photos, had some of the rides videotaped, including his own late-afternoon walk down North Fourth Avenue and past the Washtenaw County Administration Building on North Main. Kennedy's previous installations include hanging empty picture frames on a tree in front of his house (until the city made him take them down) and a "Halloween candy redistribution," in which he and friends went door-to-door to *give out* candy.

What does it cost?

$20–$40—donating two to three books, a warm winter hat, and gloves or mittens to a client of the Educational Project for Homeless Youth, through the Washtenaw Intermediate School District

$200—a week's supply of mealworms to feed orphaned baby birds during the height of the summer season, through Bird Rescue of Washtenaw

$480—sponsoring a rescued horse for one year, through SASHA Farm

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ILLUSTRATIONS JERIMIAH B. BROWN

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The Humane Society of Huron Valley takes in an average of nearly 20 animals each day. The bad economy has created a crisis for shelter animals - companions are being turned in because their owners simply can't afford them, and others are being completely abandoned. They need you now more than ever!

Honey *(shown right)* is a sweet 8-year-old Flat Coat Retriever -- abandoned by her owners and left to fend for herself. In this case her abandonment was particularly cruel because not only is she in her senior years, she is also completely blind. Can you imagine the fear and confusion she must have felt out on the streets alone?

Please help give homeless animals like Honey a second chance and help them get a home this holiday season. Give a holiday gift from the heart!

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Argo Ultimatum

Time may be running out for Argo Pond.

The future of the aging impoundment off North Main has been debated for years. Rowers want the pond preserved and dredged, while the Huron River Watershed Council advocates removing the dam to restore the river's natural flow. Now the debate is about to boil over: the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has given the city until December 31 to decide whether to tear down the ninety-five-year-old dam or repair an old earthen embankment attached to it. According to Matt Naud, Ann Arbor's environmental coordinator, either way it's going to cost city taxpayers $250,000 to $500,000.

Engineers at the MDEQ Dam Safety Program aren't worried about Argo Dam itself, which they say is in good condition. The problem is a 1,450-foot-long earthen embankment built to divert water from Argo Pond to a hydroelectric plant by the Broadway Bridge. The plant no longer operates, but the millrace is used by canoeists to portage around Argo Dam, and joggers use a dirt path on top of the embankment to reach trails around Argo Pond.

MDEQ engineers say the city must clear the ten-foot-wide embankment of brush and trees and clean out or replace about sixty drainage pipes, called toe drains, which keep water from building up inside the embankment. Most of the toe drains are clogged, buried, or missing, according to Byron Lane, chief of the Dam Safety Program. Without functional toe drains, he says, the embankment is in danger of becoming saturated and collapsing, especially if a tree falls over and pulls a big chunk of dirt out with it.

"Our concern is that the dam could fail, releasing the entire contents of the impoundment pond in a flood wave downriver," Lane says. "In Ann Arbor's case, there are occupied buildings downstream from that dam. You're talking about a hazard that could affect people's lives and property."

Sumedh Bahl, who manages the Ann Arbor water treatment plant, is responsible for maintaining Ann Arbor's four city-owned dams. Bahl says his staff is keeping an eye on the embankment and "has seen nothing to suggest there's any danger."

While they agree the toe drains need work, Bahl and other city officials want to postpone fixing them until city council decides what to do about Argo Dam. "It doesn't make sense to spend money to repair toe drains if we're going to remove the dam," he says.

Despite the state's deadline, Naud says the city is planning a series of public meetings in January to "reach out to the community and have a discussion" about possible options for the Argo Pond area and how to pay for them. "The real question is how much is this pond worth to us as a community," he says.

DAVID BARBER

A state official warns the embankment could fail, "releasing the entire contents of the impoundment pond in a flood wave downriver."

Those discussions had better happen soon, says MDEQ's Byron Lane. He says toe drain problems have been cited in Argo Dam inspection reports since 2001.

East Side Story

On the evening of October 13, residents on Buckingham Road smelled gas.

As a DTE technician fruitlessly wandered the neighborhood with a flashlight and digital detector, neighbors recalled that one house, which had sat vacant since the owner's death, had an unfinished renovation. They discovered that a twenty-foot length of copper gas line had been carefully unscrewed from its junction at the side of the renovated garage and then roughly snapped off where it peeked out from beneath the half-finished carport. Natural gas blew freely from the ragged stub of pipe.

The home's owner, Mike Johnston, was killed this past March. A tow-truck driver, Johnston was pulling a drunk driver out of a ditch when a second drunk sped past flares and police and slammed into him, killing him instantly.

Johnston's neighbors let themselves into his tidy brick bungalow, where the DTE man finally found the meter in the back of a closet, cranked it shut, and sealed it with a brass lock. Meanwhile someone found a copy of Johnston's obituary and was able to contact his sister. She explained that the house was still stuck in probate. Although no payments had been made on the mortgage since March, Countrywide Home Loans had yet to make a claim. Three days later a sketchy pair of contractors arrived to drill out the front locks and replace them with a padlock.

Asked whether their arrival meant the property was in foreclosure, a contractor shrugged: "Well, when it's in foreclosure-*foreclosure, they have us come through and change all the locks."*

The Return of Spaulding Clark

Four years after being turned out of office as a Republican, Scio Township's former supervisor is back—as a Democrat.

Charlie Nielsen beat Spaulding Clark in 2004, only to lose to him in this year's Democratic primary. Nielsen blames an anti-incumbent mood—"Of the five supervisors up for election, all five lost to challengers"—and the fact that he and Doug Fuller split the progressive vote. It didn't help, he adds, that "Spaulding ran an anti-public-safety-millage campaign." Clark opposed a 0.9-mill tax to fund the fire department and thereby free up general-fund money to hire more sheriff's deputies. "People wanted somebody who wouldn't raise their taxes," Nielsen says, "even if it's really in their own best interests to do so."

That may have been true in August—but November was a different story. Buoyed by a huge turnout for Barack Obama, the millage was approved by 69 percent of the vote. "It's amazing," Nielsen laughs. "My proposal wins two to one and I lose the primary. It's like they

MARK BIALEK

Once and future Scio Township supervisor Spaulding Clark.

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like my ideas but they don't like me!"

Clark returned to his old office just before Thanksgiving—with the millage as an early Christmas gift. "Frankly, I didn't expect so many people to vote on it," he admits. "Everybody votes for president, but there's a steep falloff of interest after that. But almost everybody voted either for or against it. More people than I expected understood the issue."

Clark believes voters rejected the Democratic incumbents because "the board had become dysfunctional. The members could hardly speak to each other, much less get done what needed to be done." Nielsen disputes that, but many other township officers and trustees agree with Clark. "We didn't get along from the start," says outgoing one-term trustee Jim Dries. "It was personalities more than anything else. Jean King can be a viper, and she was always after Charlie Nielsen."

"I don't think I was after Charlie," King laughs. "Charlie did the best he could, but he wasn't up to it. He really tried, but you couldn't try hard enough with that bunch."

Clark predicts the new board will be more collegial. Though only one member ran on Clark's slate—four were on Fuller's and one ran as an independent—Clark doesn't see that as a problem. "These are people I've known a long time, and I know they have the township's best interests at heart," he says.

Selling the Holy Toaster

"The skylights leaked from day one," says University Reformed Church pastor Sung Kim.

The URC building at 1001 East Huron was erected in 1962 at the height of Ann Arbor's brief flirtation with modernism. Irreverently nicknamed the Holy Toaster because of its slab-sided design (by Gunnar Birkerts, who also did Domino's Farms), it served its congregation for forty-six years—but the marriage wasn't made in heaven.

"The building had issues," Kim says. "The sanctuary is four stories high and made of concrete, so in the winter when you turn on the heat, it was never more than sixty degrees in there."

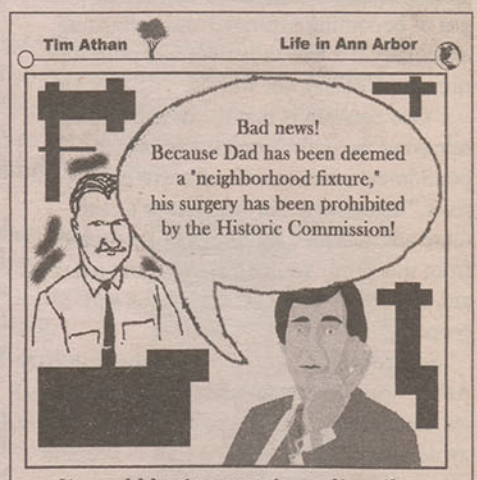
MARK BIALEK

Seth Kim's Harvest Mission Church paid $1.7 million for the erstwhile University Reformed Church.

After taking over as pastor in 2005, Kim soon concluded the building was "hindering us from doing basic ministry. Our demographics had changed from students to young professionals with children, and we needed a space that would better suit our needs." Renamed Grace Ann Arbor, the congregation now meets in the U-M Modern Languages Building.

But the URC's departure doesn't mean that the Toaster will no longer be holy: the Harvest Mission Church has bought the building. Founded in 1996 by pastor Seth Kim—no relation to Sung Kim—the congregation first met in Angell Hall with a membership Seth Kim describes as "ninety-nine percent college students and one guy who worked for GM who made forty percent of the donations.

"We rented so many different places that we used to joke that you had to have a good IQ to find where we're meeting next," Kim recalls. "Soon people started graduating and getting jobs, and then they


Tim Athan
Life in Ann Arbor
Bad news!
Because Dad has been deemed a "neighborhood fixture," his surgery has been prohibited by the Historic Commission!

It would be too great an alteration of a historic structure.

question corner

Q: What became of the concrete whale, with a hole through its middle for kids to crawl through, that sat in the old Arborland Mall?

A: Mark and Patti Allen, who operated a seasonal store in Arborland called the Antler People, hauled away the 3,000-pound sculpture when the original mall was demolished in the late 1980s. The whale now sits on the lawn of their Pinckney home, where it can be seen from Base Line Lake.

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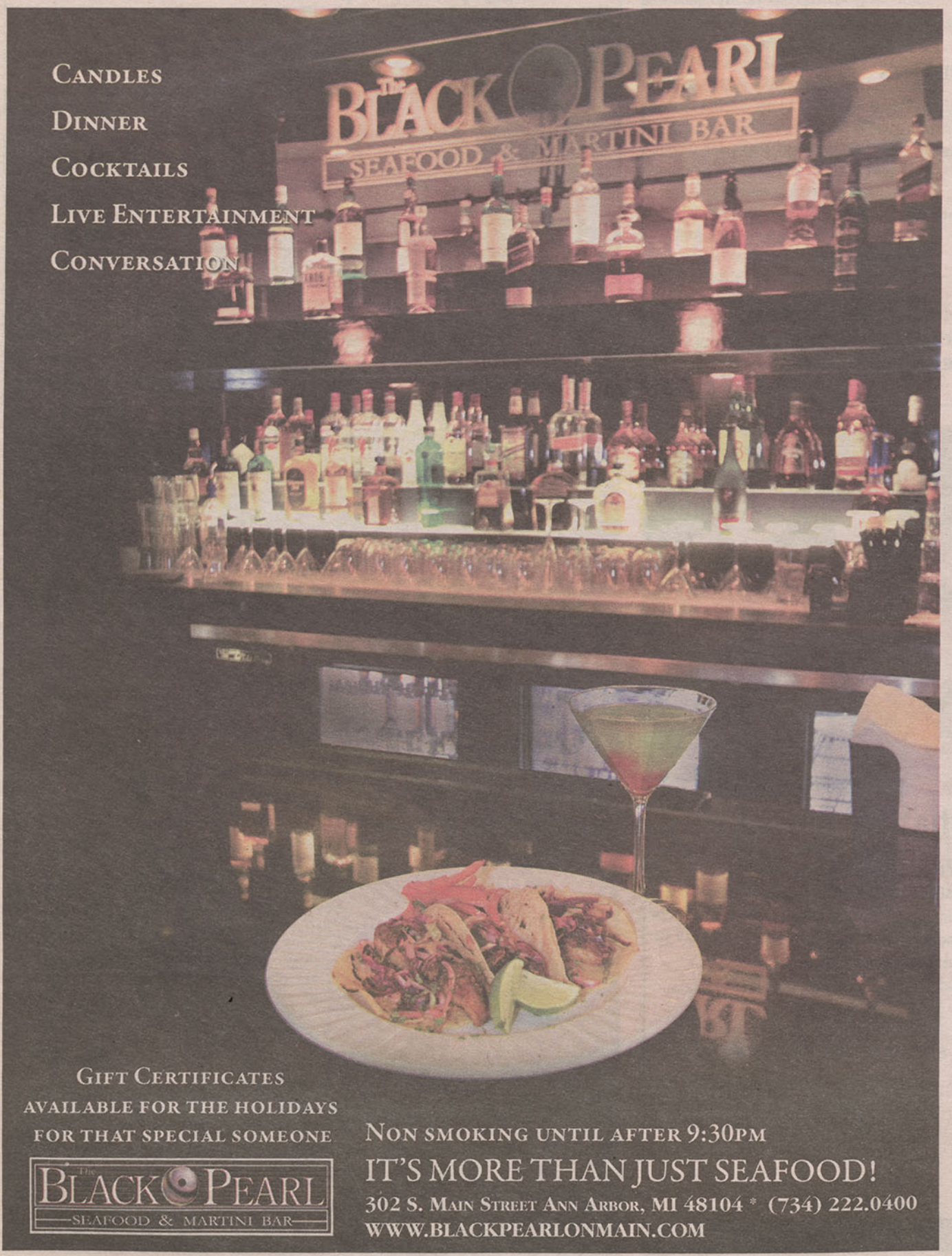

started getting married and having kids, so my wife and I saw that we had to get a bigger home for the church.

"We have about four-hundred-plus attending folks," says Kim—four times Grace Ann Arbor's turnout. "In the beginning ninety-nine percent were Asian American, but it's started to be multiethnic because we wanted it to be beyond race. Currently we are about forty-five percent Korean American, twenty-one percent Chinese American, fourteen percent Caucasian, five percent African American, and one percent Latino."

Harvest Mission paid $1.7 million for 1001 East Huron. "We always want to be able to reach the U-M campus," explains Kim. "The future leaders of the world are coming out of the university, and part of our vision is to be a blessing to the college students, to get them to live a life beyond themselves, to give them a larger vision of a world, larger than money and power—to give them a world view that's more encompassing."

Gift House

"You're supposed to give until it hurts," says ninety-year-old Henry Vander Kaay. "And I wasn't hurting enough."

Vander Kaay was active in Kiwanis and Motor Meals but says he felt "a little bit remiss about how much I had donated to charity." So Vander Kaay, who now lives at Glacier Hills Manor senior housing, decided to give his large ranch house just west of Eberwhite Woods to the Salvation Army.

"I couldn't think of any place better to give it," he says simply. He still fondly remembers a trip to a free Salvation Army summer camp near Cleveland when he was a child. "I saw pollywogs and things I had never seen anywhere before," he recalls.

Charities often receive donated stock, but homes are a rare gift. The U-M might get one a year from alumni or supporters, and this year the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation received two, both part of a woman's estate. "Often it's because there are no children," explains AAACF CEO Cheryl Elliott, who expects to see more home donations in coming years with the generational transfer of wealth.

The Salvation Army has received a handful of homes before, says major John Williams. But Williams, who was stationed in the Flint area before coming to Ann Arbor this fall, calls Vander Kaay's home "the finest house that I've had donated in Michigan."

Williams says he expects to use the proceeds to increase the number of children who attend Salvation Army camps—a day camp in Ann Arbor and an overnight camp outside Oxford. "We'd like to double the summer day camp from thirty to forty to sixty to eighty kids," he says, with scholarships honoring Vander Kaay's homey gift.

MARK BIALEK

Henry Vander Kaay felt "a little bit remiss about how much I had donated to charity"—so he gave his west-side home to the Salvation Army.

calls & letters

Karl Krushelnick's research

Our November story "The Pentagon's Pet Projects" inaccurately described the research of U-M physics prof Karl Krushelnick.

A photo caption in the story incorrectly stated that the navy is "interested in Karl Krushelnick's high-intensity laser as a way to simulate nuclear explosions." In fact, Krushelnick's navy contract is for fundamental research to develop cheaper ways to produce neutron beams, which could be used to detect smuggled uranium in shipping containers at U.S. ports, among other homeland security applications.

In an email, Krushelnick stressed that "none of the research we do has applications to nuclear weapons." His comments on the military applications of high-power lasers applied only to a project under way at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory—not to his own research. Krushelnick's prior work on increasing the efficiency of inertial confinement fusion is not being used at Lawrence Livermore, and contrary to what we wrote, his present work will not contribute to it. We regret the errors.

Bgreen

Daniel Stephens emailed to point out that we got the name of his new business wrong in November's Marketplace Changes column. His Colonial Lanes Plaza store, which carries environmentally friendly building products, cleaning supplies, and paper-product substitutes, is called Bgreen.

David Durish

November's Table of Contents misspelled the name of the artist responsible for the personable gargoyle on last month's cover. Our apologies to David Durish.

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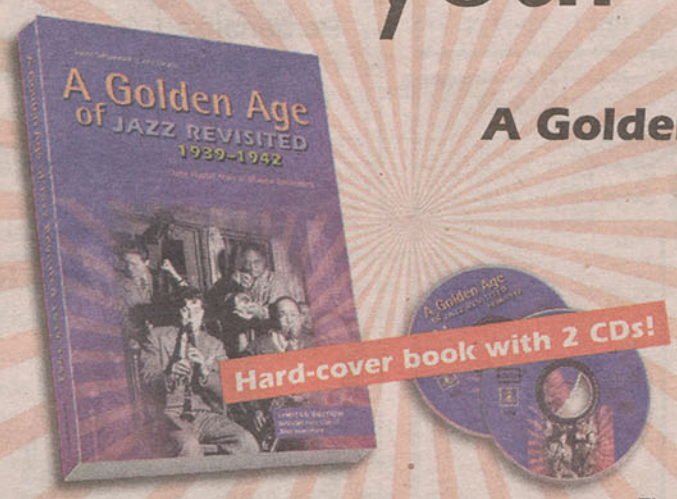

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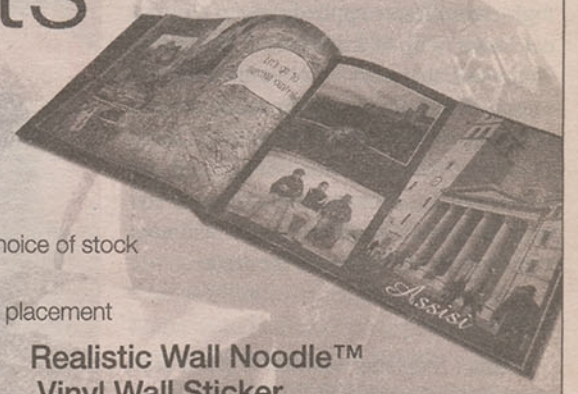

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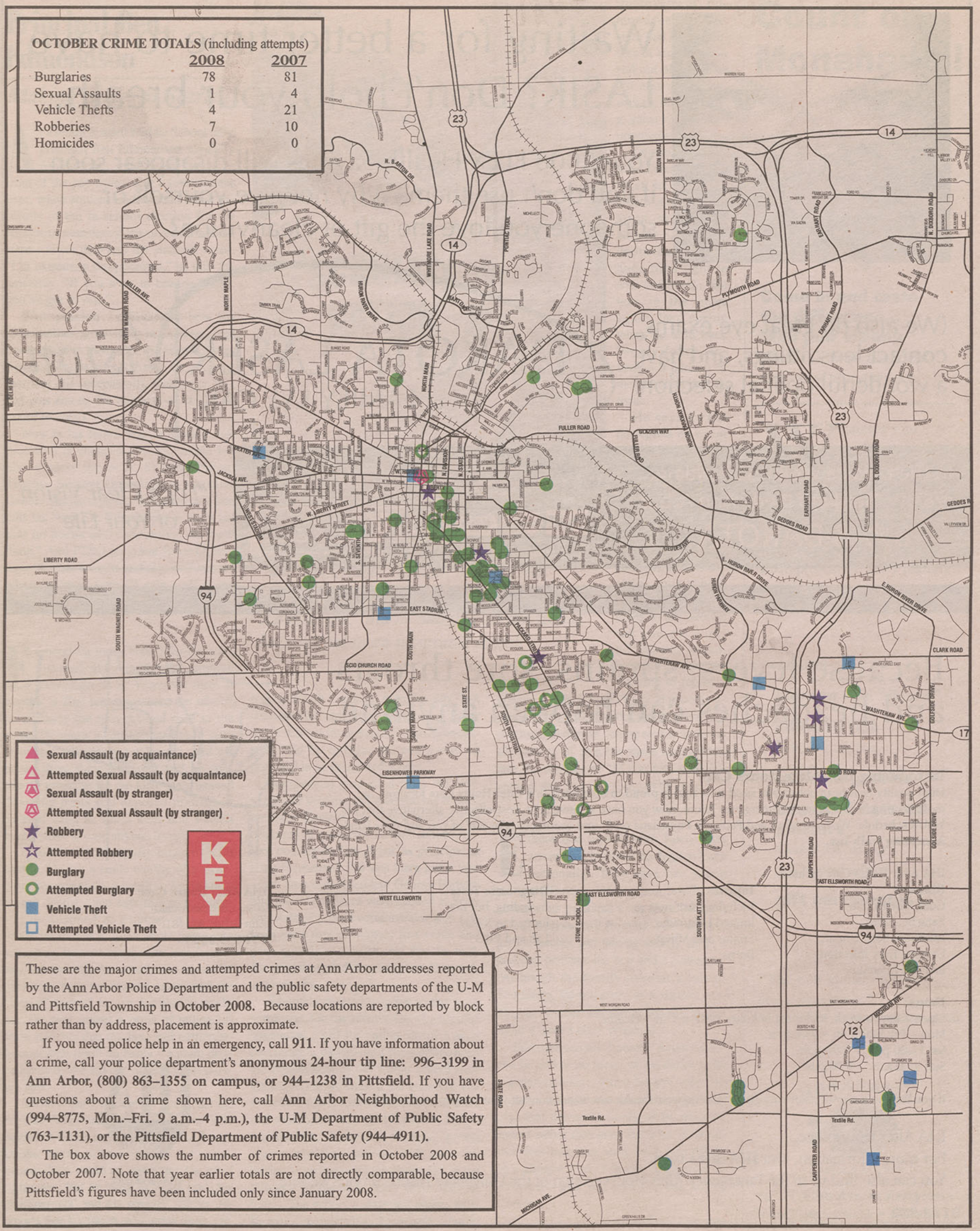
CrimeMap

OCTOBER CRIME TOTALS (including attempts)

	2008	2007
Burglaries	78	81
Sexual Assaults	1	4
Vehicle Thefts	4	21
Robberies	7	10
Homicides	0	0



These are the major crimes and attempted crimes at Ann Arbor addresses reported by the Ann Arbor Police Department and the public safety departments of the U-M and Pittsfield Township in **October 2008.** Because locations are reported by block rather than by address, placement is approximate.

If you need police help in an emergency, call **911**. If you have information about a crime, call your police department's **anonymous 24-hour tip line: 996–3199 in Ann Arbor, (800) 863–1355 on campus, or 944–1238 in Pittsfield.** If you have questions about a crime shown here, call **Ann Arbor Neighborhood Watch (994–8775, Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.), the U-M Department of Public Safety (763–1131), or the Pittsfield Department of Public Safety (944–4911).**

The box above shows the number of crimes reported in October 2008 and October 2007. Note that year earlier totals are not directly comparable, because Pittsfield's figures have been included only since January 2008.

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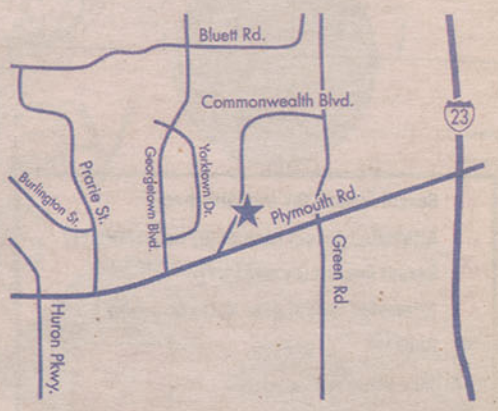

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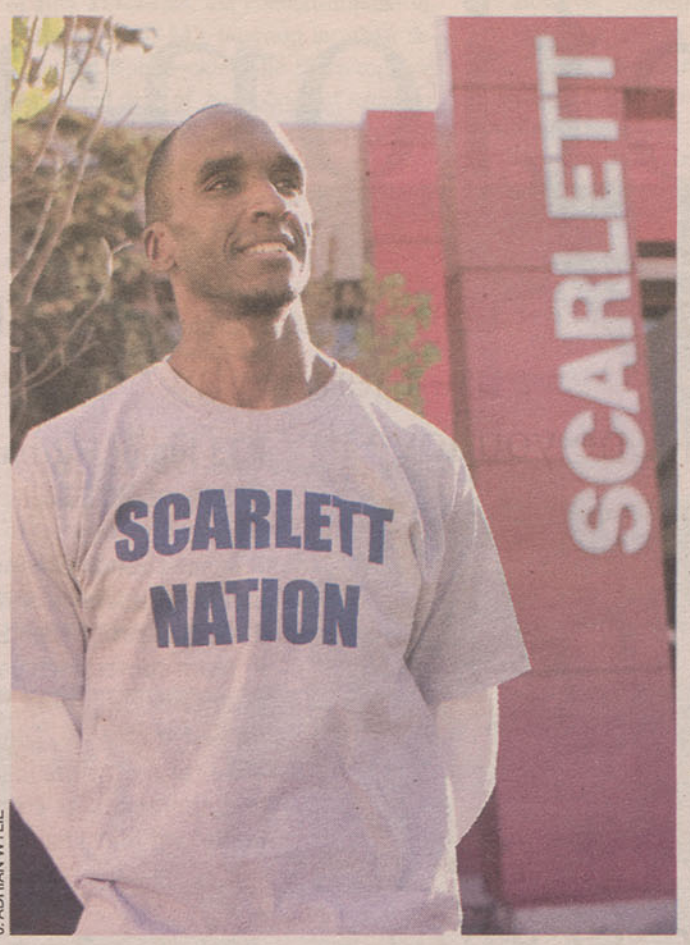
Principal Ben Edmondson

Making waves at Scarlett

At a recent Scarlett Middle School rally, principal Ben Edmondson playfully demonstrates some dance "steps" in front of the pep squad. But a few minutes later, when student leaders read aloud the results of the in-school election for the American presidency, his expression turns stern—fewer than half the students voted: "I'm extremely disappointed," he tells the assembly. "If you want to change things, you've got to vote."

With passion, he describes how his grandmother, growing up in the segregated South, "had to memorize the United States Constitution to vote." (Later, he explains that she *did* successfully memorize it—and was among the minority of blacks allowed to vote.)

Now in his fourth year at Scarlett, Edmondson is cheerful and accessible but also clearly the boss. Scarlett Parent Teacher Student Organization treasurer Debbie Harris says her seventh-grade son tells her "that Dr. Edmondson is strict but that he keeps everyone doing the right thing." And PTSO president Brice O'Neal says "it was a night-and-day difference" when he took over: "I saw staff come alive."



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Edmondson says that his father, who grew up in segregated South Carolina, is to this day "not comfortable" around white people. "Never in his wildest imagination," says Edmondson, "did he imagine his son would be principal in an integrated school."

Edmondson looks both taller (he's six feet one) and younger (he's pushing forty) than he is. When we meet at Tuptim, a Thai restaurant near the school, he is easily the best-dressed man in the room. He sports a herringbone tweed jacket over a silky gray turtleneck, and his brown shoes shine. Dressing well, he says, sets an example for the kids. He's banned drooping pants and exposed midriffs at Scarlett—and he keeps belts and T-shirts in the office in case anyone forgets.

Edmondson practically bounces with energy. He has a smile worthy of a toothpaste commercial—a credit to his father, a retired dentist—and says that as a youngster he dreamed of a career in politics. When he started to think about going into education, he told his mother, an elementary teacher, that he wasn't sure he could deal with both the limited salary and the "lack of respect" he saw for men in teaching. He now makes a point of telling his male students that teachers and particularly principals don't do badly—a point driven home by the silver Corvette in his parking spot.

About a third of Scarlett's students are African American. Edmondson is a "role model to black boys at the school," says Debbie Harris, whose own son is biracial. Edmondson came of age after the civil rights era, but he took to heart both his grandparents' and his parents' stories. He reports that his father, who grew up in segregated South Carolina, is to this day "not comfortable" around white people. "Never in his wildest imagination," says Edmondson, "did he imagine his son would be principal in an integrated school."

Edmondson graduated from the University of Virginia and received his doctorate from Eastern. He was a teacher and principal in suburban Detroit schools before coming to Ann Arbor as principal at King Elementary. He was there just a year when then-superintendent George Fornero told him his services were needed at Scarlett. Retired school administrator Bob Galardi says that principals had come and gone quickly at Scarlett and that the middle school needed the discipline Edmondson brought.

Edmondson quickly cracked down on rowdiness. On the second day of school he suspended a girl for pulling down a male classmate's pants—and then announced the punishment to the whole school over the intercom. He walked the halls and visited classrooms, learned the names of kids, and sometimes even graded papers. He established the "Academic Society," giving high-performing students with good behavior records special privileges like being allowed to listen to their iPods during lunch. The school's state test scores have shown a respectable, if not spectacular, improvement. Edmondson emphasizes that large numbers of kids move in and out of the Scarlett area each year, making the academic gains all the more impressive.

Edmondson made headlines in 2006 when he canceled eighth-grade graduation ceremonies because Scarlett students had held a huge food fight in the cafeteria. He was in the news again last spring when he held back twenty-four students—5 percent of the school's enrollment.

He says he has no regrets on either score. He still vividly remembers running to the cafeteria and seeing kids "with mayonnaise and mustard in their hair. . . . You have a food fight and destroy your school and you think we're going to turn around and give you a party?" he asks heatedly. As for forcing students to repeat a grade—a long-debated issue in school circles—Edmondson acknowledges this can stigmatize students, but he says it beats the alternative of sending them unprepared into the workforce: "If you turn your life around, that stigma's going to be gone."

Edmondson says his wife, Roslyn, has a calm that balances his high-voltage personality. They have two young sons. At Tuptim, Edmondson briefly exchanges his principal's hat for a parent's, taking a phone call from his son's kindergarten teacher and talking tensely about a problem between the boy and a classmate. (Although the family lives in Ypsilanti Township, Edmondson, as a district employee, enrolled his son at Bryant, in part so he'd have a black principal.)

Edmondson calls himself "a risk taker," and he makes no secret of his desire to be a superintendent. Since leaders who can improve troubled schools are in short supply, that dream is likely to be realized sooner rather than later. But even if his career does take him away from Ann Arbor, he's already made a lasting impression at Scarlett—and not just for the silver Corvette.

—Eve Silberman

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THE GOOD THE UGLY & THE HIDEOUS

by James Leonard

The dish on downtown's new buildings

MARK BIALEK

MARK BIALEK

Carl Luckenbach says Corner House apartments (top) is "everybody's favorite whipping boy." But it's got competition from Ashley Terrace (left)—retired U-M architecture dean Bob Beckley calls the condo "a carbuncle on the landscape."

"Why are so many of the buildings going up around town so ugly?" asks Joan Lowenstein. Standing in City Hall's cramped main entrance, the not-yet-former city council representative isn't afraid to name names. Her "ugly" buildings include the Corner House Apartments on State and the Ashley Terrace condos on Huron—she calls the latter a "ziggurat wannabe."

Lowenstein is not alone. We heard plenty of criticism when we asked six local architects to evaluate downtown's newest buildings, from Corner House to the planned addition to City Hall and the embattled 601 Forest student high-rise.

Three names immediately suggested themselves—Carl Luckenbach, Mike Quinn, and John Mouat—and those architects in turn suggested three more: Marc Rueter, Roy Strickland, and Bob Beckley.

Silver-haired and acerbic, Carl Luckenbach designed the jaunty Forest Street parking structure and the innovative Pittsfield and Malletts Creek branch libraries; he's now working on a new downtown library. Measured but incisive, Mike Quinn of Quinn Evans is best known for major preservation projects like the U-M School of Natural Resources and Environment—but his firm also has the contract to design the city's new police-courts building. John Mouat's firm, Mitchell and Mouat, did the gracious Fourth and Washington parking structure; his insight and cautious reticence reflect his experience as a longtime member of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) board.

"Why," asks outgoing city council rep Joan Lowenstein, "are so many of the buildings going up around town so ugly?"

Luckenbach recommended Marc Rueter, "a very thoughtful and good designer." Quinn pointed out that without the opinions of Roy Strickland, the context-minded director of the U-M's program in urban design, and Bob Beckley, the sharp-tongued just-retired dean of the College of Architecture and Urban Planning, readers would lack the views of academic architects.

We asked them to evaluate the major buildings that have gone up downtown in the last five years. Collectively they described the good, the ugly, and the hideous of Ann Arbor's ongoing building boom.

Nobody likes Corner House

Carl Luckenbach calls **Corner House Apartments** "everybody's favorite whipping boy." Opened in 2004 to the disdain of architects and the delight of State Street area merchants, the building has seven upper floors fully occupied by 180 mostly student residents, while its retail street level is booming with the Buffalo Wild Wings sports bar.

"That building has two big problems," says Luckenbach in his light-filled second-story office across from the Federal Building. "The windows on the upper floors are too small, and the windows on the main floor are too dark. On the other hand, this relative degree of self-effacement suits the building's use. With students and a saloon as the tenants, we'd probably rather have it fade into the background."

"It suffers from a lack of proportion between the parts and the whole," says Marc Rueter in his garden-level office on Fifth Street around the corner from Jefferson Market. "Classical twentieth-century modernism says a building ought to have a bottom, a middle, and a top. But with Corner House Lofts what you have is a squashed bottom, a banal middle, and a timid top." (Like the other architects, Rueter still refers to the building by the name it went by when the city planners reviewed it.)

Speaking from behind dark-tinted glasses, Bob Beckley declares, "It's ugly—and there's so much more they could have done to make it attractive. Balconies would have been nice. But instead it's just ugly.

"However," continues Beckley, sipping a latte in Sweetwaters, "there's a place for ugly buildings, for background buildings, for banal buildings in the urban landscape, and I suspect that in time Corner House Lofts will disappear from sight."

After considering the building for a minute, Mike Quinn says, "Like University Towers [on South University], the architect attempted a classical revival facade—equally unsuccessfully, in my opinion. Tower Plaza [on William] tried the same thing, but yet somehow they were much more successful."

"From my point of view as an urban designer," says Roy Strickland, "density and concentration in the center of Ann Arbor is a good idea. Taller, denser buildings bring more life to the street and more people, more safety, more commerce in general, and more retail in particular." Of Corner House itself, however, the best Strickland can say is "It's a mild-mannered background building."

Or, as John Mouat succinctly dismisses it over coffee at Cafe Zola, "Let's say that building is clean and simple and just leave it at that."

Unlovely as it is, Corner House has been successful enough that two similar student-targeted high-rises are currently under construction on opposite sides of the Diag. But until we showed them renderings, most of our architects couldn't picture either one. That's understandable: neither is scheduled to open until May 2009—though 4 Eleven Lofts, at Washington and Division, is closer to completion than Zaragon Place, the ten-story building that replaces the venerable Anberay Apartments on East University.

Despite its unfinished state, **Zaragon Place** already has venomous critics on the local blogs. Jon Zemke describes it on Metromode as "a plain brick box to store university students," while Parking Structure Dude on Arbor Update makes the ultimate invidious comparison—"Zaragon Place makes Corner House Lofts look like the Dakota."

Beckley agrees with Parking Structure Dude's basic outlook—"It looks like it'll share a lot of the qualities of Corner House Lofts"—though, he hedges, "it's a little too early to tell." Luckenbach is uncharacteristically sanguine but for a reason: "Neumann/Smith [the firm that designed Zaragon Place] is well respected and Joel Smith is a friend of mine, so I have hopes for it."

Judging from what he's seen, Rueter is quite positive: "It's got a strong base [and] an interesting top, and the masonry block has strong feeling to it." Like Metromode's Zemke, though, Rueter says he was "sad to see the old building go."

Across campus, Rueter has qualified hopes for **4 Eleven Lofts:** "The base is too weak, though the middle is kind of nice and it does have nicely sized windows." However, he takes issue with the street

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frontage: "[City planner] Jeff Kahan wanted to see retail right on the street, but I'd like to see a ten-foot setback."

After seeing renderings, Beckley softens his opinions on Zaragon Place and 4 Eleven: "They are better than the average apartment complex built in Ann Arbor. Why? They have articulated facades that break their bulk up, they have identifiable front doors, and they respect the street edge. The renderings of 4 Eleven especially show the building in its context—suggesting the architect didn't just pull this project from a drawer and paste it onto an Ann Arbor street."

Measured Mike Quinn considers 4 Eleven Lofts "to be one of the more successful urban design responses to a twenty-first-century Ann Arbor. The ten-story height of the structure definitely challenges the scale and sense of the surrounding urban streetscape, and in a perfect world, seven or eight stories would be preferable. I appreciate the use of brick and the change of materials to break up the sense of massing and reduce the sense of scale to be a better neighbor to surrounding structures."

COURTESY ZARAGON INC.

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The children of Corner House: already under construction, Zaragon Place (top) and 4 Eleven Lofts (bottom) are pursuing the same niche in high-end student rentals, but both get better reviews: Marc Rueter likes Zaragon's "strong base" and "interesting top" and 4 Eleven's midsection.
(Left) Still on the drawing boards, 601 Forest shrank from twenty-five to fourteen floors on its way through the planning process. Mike Quinn and Carl Luckenbach agree the original plan was too big—but all the architects say they'll welcomes anything that mitigates the ugly University Towers.

COURTESY THE SCION GROUP

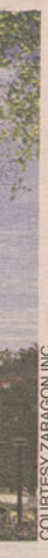
What about the most recent, the biggest, and the most controversial student rental project—**601 Forest?** The high-rise at Forest and South U aroused fear and loathing as it wound its way toward approval by the city, dwindling in the process from twenty-five to fourteen floors. It turns out the architects have mixed views on the two versions—but are united in their dis-

taste for the building kitty-corner across the street, the eighteen-story University Towers.

"As originally proposed, [601 Forest] was too big for that part of town," says Luckenbach. "The original mass was way too immense," agrees Quinn. "Tower Plaza is a skyscraper at twenty-seven stories. But South University and Forest is a more residential part of downtown, and the original design was too large. And I'd have to say University Towers was a negative influence in that regard."

"Like Corner Houser Lofts, its big virtue is that it brings students closer to campus," notes Beckley, "and fourteen stories is appropriate for the neighborhood—although twenty wouldn't have been bad. It depends on the quality of the building. University Towers, for example, is now part of the landscape, but it is an ugly building."

Rueter votes with the consensus: "University Towers is a bad building, though the height doesn't bother me. What bothers me is the building itself. As for the new building, it's hard to know what it'll be like until it's built. But having another big building there could be a good thing if it mitigates University Towers."



COURTESY ZARAGON INC.

Judging the condos

Before the current rush to build student rentals, condos drove the housing boom. Downtown has added three major owner-occupied projects in the past five years.

The architects are divided on the smallest of the three: **Loft 322,** the five-story building with the galvanized steel facade on Liberty between Fifth Avenue and Division. Many like it. Some don't. But however they feel about the rest of the building, all the architects hate the main floor.

"That giant garage door is absolutely hideous," says Luckenbach, summing up the common view. "It gives that building the worst relationship to the sidewalk of any building built in Ann Arbor in the last ten years."

Quinn concedes that "the on-site parking next to the sidewalk is unfortunate." But otherwise he defends Loft 322. "The scale is really good," he says. "The facade reads well from the street, and I like its honest contemporary character."

Rueter, too, defends the building: "From a planning point of view, the call for downtown living is a good idea in general. And though I'd hate to see all of downtown look like that, one or two buildings here and there are okay."

Only Beckley says he actually likes the building: "I like the way the balconies break up the facade. The scale is good, with good use of modern materials. I even considered living there at one point." But even Beckley admits that "the problem is the ground floor. Denali [the developer] made an honest effort to alleviate it, but he had to put the parking on the main floor. What he should have done is put retail in front and parking behind it."

On the other hand, everybody in the group loves **Liberty Lofts,** the refurbished factory off Liberty just west of downtown. "It's a great use of that building," says Beckley, "and it's really interesting to

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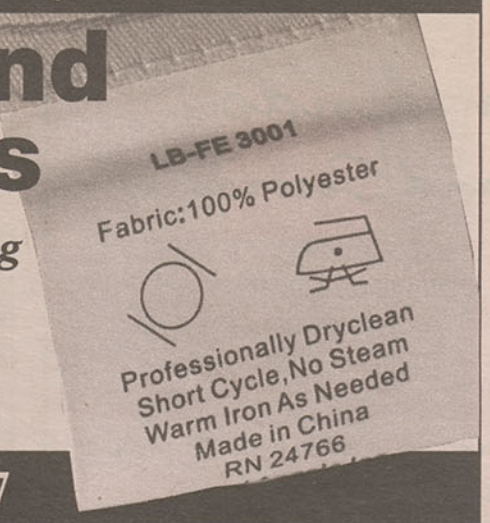

THE GOOD THE UGLY & THE HIDEOUS *continued*

walk past. With all those windows, there's always something to see."

"It's a great example of adaptive reuse of an industrial building," says Quinn. "They respected the history of the site but turned the building into a contemporary living space. I understand it was challenging working in a historic district, but I was pleased to see they were allowed to put probably the last for a while, is **Ashley Terrace** at the corner of Huron—Lowenstein's "ziggurat wannabe."

"Another ugly building," laughs Beckley, "a carbuncle on the landscape. But think of number One North Main. It, too, is an ugly building, and it has receded in our vision. However, [Ashley Terrace] is not a nice building to walk past, not a building you'd want to walk past. It was like that with number One North Main, and now that whole stretch of Huron is like that."

Luckenbach has a theory as to why Ashley Terrace looks the way it does:

MARK BIALEK

Opinion is divided on the rest of Loft 322 (right), but no one likes the garage door on the sidewalk. On the other hand, everyone loves Liberty Lofts—Mike Quinn calls it "a great example of adaptive reuse of an industrial building."

MARK BIALEK

balconies on." Like Beckley lauding Loft 322, Quinn pays Liberty Lofts an architect's ultimate compliment: "That's where I'd buy a condo."

Rueter, Mouat, and Strickland all praise Liberty Lofts in nearly the same language—"successful job," "good job," and "quite successful," respectively—and even the stern Luckenbach is comparatively positive: "It's pretty much okay. It's a perfectly legitimate conversion of an industrial building to a residential building."

The only thing that divides opinion is what should go in the large windowed space on the building's north side. "It's a really gorgeous space for a farmers' market," enthuses Quinn. "The retail should be a food store for the Old West Side," agrees Rueter, "and the [People's] Food Co-op is often mentioned as a possibility." The rest concur—except for the often-contrarian Beckley, who sees "a furniture store like Crate and Barrel."

The latest condo project to open, and "The developer squeezed pennies on that project." Rueter agrees: "It's another example of a budget-driven building—and from the looks of it, the money was taken out of the top. But look at the corner on Ashley and Huron. It's too weak. It's large, but it's not detailed enough for its size."

"I'm comfortable with the scale," says Quinn, "and although the articulation could have been stronger, the building does have base, middle, and top. Dealing with the rather steep change of grade on Huron was a challenge, a challenge not everyone would say they met. Plus while the facade has a kind of precast, Tinkertoy quality to it, we have to remember precast concrete can be a very viable and useful tool."

"That building is a condo," sums up Strickland from his Park Avenue office in New York, where he's spending his sabbatical, "so the move was to make the building more stylized, to use the precast concrete panel system in a way that says, 'I'm expensive. Live here.'"

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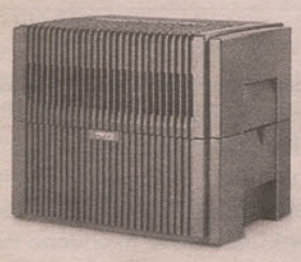

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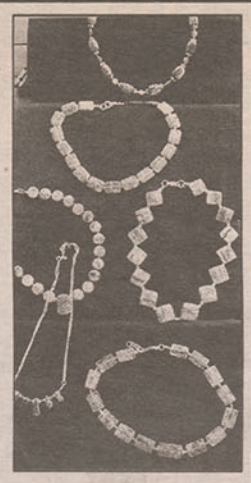

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THE GOOD THE UGLY & THE HIDEOUS *continued*

A popular office and a debatable City Hall addition

Amid all the condos and apartments, new office buildings have been scarce lately. But one office building *all* the architects like is **201 Depot,** the sleek white office on stilts just down the street from Casey's Tavern. "I have to give it to [developer Bill] Martin for being a little adventurous," concedes Luckenbach. "And I admire the gesture of putting a railroad car on tracks in front of the building."

COURTESY CITY OF ANN ARBOR

All six architects like 201 Depot, Bill Martin's sleek office building on stilts with the railcar out front. The not-yet-built City Hall addition is both praised for its strong design and criticized for lacking a civic presence.

"It's cool," agrees Beckley, "and the nod to history of the site is important. It's the kind of architecture you admire, which is sometimes easier to criticize than architecture you hate. But although some say the design looks like something you might find at an auto dealership, I don't agree."

"It's a real good addition to North Main," gushes Quinn. "It's absolutely the right scale. The planning for the floodplain, the 'stilts,' is excellent. And the railroad car just hits everybody who sees it right between the eyes." Even the normally reserved Mouat is emphatic: "I like it," he says, striking the table gently with his fist, "and the railroad car is terrific, the sort of thing that keeps things fun."

In Rueter's opinion, 201 Depot is "Neumann/Smith's best building in Ann Arbor. It's not an Ann Arbor building, but it's functional and responds well to the site. And it embodies one of the central truths of our business: you can't have good architecture without a good client."

If that's the case, what about the **Ann Arbor Municipal Center,** the controver-

sial expansion of City Hall? All the architects agree that the grueling approval process shows the citizenry's deep ambivalence about spending $47 million in a crashing national economy. But opinion on the planned building is mixed.

"I don't understand it," says Luckenbach. "I don't understand what drives its design. I don't see it having a strong civic image to it." In Beckley's opinion, "City Hall should be an iconic building that shouldn't blend into the landscape, and this one doesn't. I like the design myself, though I don't know if it will complement or be in competition with City Hall when it's built."

Mike Quinn's firm designed the police-courts building. "We've come up with a strong, contextual design that fits the existing structure," he says. "We're keeping the scale at five stories to fit the urban fabric of Ann Arbor. Depending on the function, it's got either a more open or a more private facade, and it's got a far more welcoming entrance."

Rueter isn't entirely convinced: "The building needs a strong civic presence, and I'm not sure from the renderings if this design has it." But because he believes Quinn Evans "are good architects," he's willing to suspend judgment until he sees the finished product.

What's next for downtown?

Asked about the architectural future of downtown, Bob Beckley at first sounds pessimistic. "It takes a good client to make a good building," he says, recalling Rueter's earlier remark. "And I'd give Ann Arbor and the university a C in both those categories.

"However," he continues, "I have to say great strides are being made downtown in adding buildings and adding density. And thanks to the good work of the DDA and especially [executive director] Susan Pollay, I think the future looks very good for Ann Arbor."

"In five years, there'll be ten more significant projects downtown," Mike Quinn confidently predicts. "But people will still drive down Liberty or Main and feel that this is the city they know."

As usual, Carl Luckenbach is the most pessimistic: "All these buildings—Corner House Lofts, Ashley Terrace, and so on—suffer from a market that doesn't really value good design."

DDA board member Mouat, on the other hand, is more optimistic than most. "The future is exciting," he says. "We're a very progressive city and a great place to live, and we need to keep it great.

"I'm not for 'grow or die'; there are quality-of-life issues to consider. But some places evolve and others go in another direction. When I moved here in 1974, the downtown was dead. But now Ann Arbor is a beacon in Michigan, and we have to maintain and enhance it so it stays a place people want to come, especially people in their twenties and thirties. They're the future, and if they're not here, they and the future will be somewhere else." ■

Next month: changes on the U-M campus, including the new Michigan Stadium.

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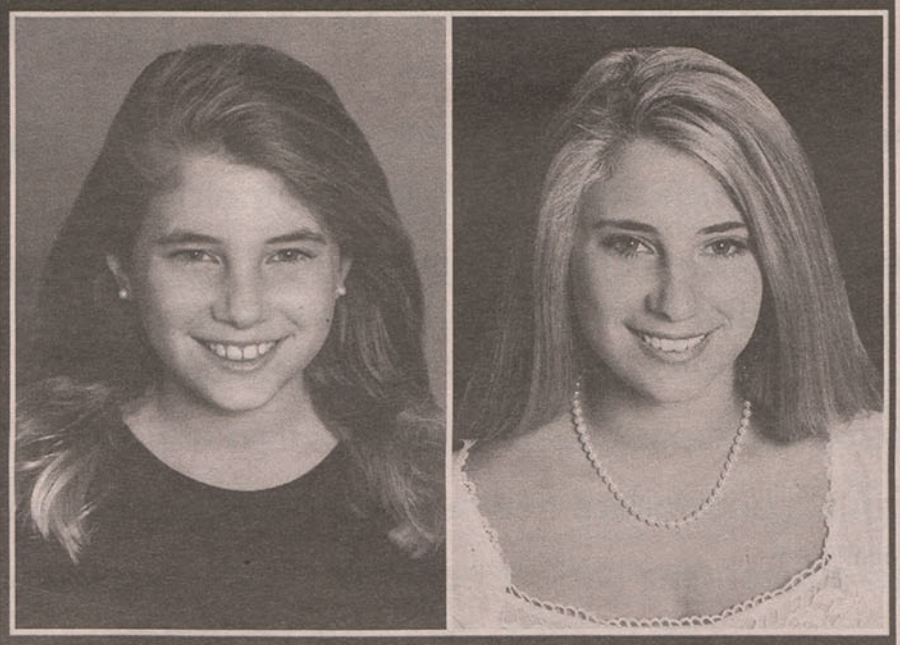

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The Threshold Choir

Bidding farewell in song

by Sandor Slomovits

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Tammy Corwin-Renner, far right, was inspired to organize the Ann Arbor Threshold Choir by her own experience when her mother lay dying. "She was always saying 'Tammy, play me a song,'" Corwin-Renner remembers.

Before my father died, he was in the grip of a profound dementia. He was in a hospital in Florida and my brother and I were still here in Michigan. We phoned daily, but he was confused, anxious, and incoherent.

Then one day my brother was inspired to sing, in Hebrew, a song my father had sung almost every Friday night of his life, a song about angels of peace. As soon as Laz began singing, my father fell silent and became calm. When the song was done, he said "Yes" and hung up the phone. In his last few days, my ninety-six-year-old father also frequently cried out to his mother, though she'd been gone for more than sixty years.

California choir director Kate Munger had a similar experience when she sang for a friend dying of AIDS. Recognizing the power of music to soothe those who are close to death—especially women's voices, recalling as they do the comforting sounds of mothers and lullabies—Munger founded the first Threshold Choir in 2000.

There are now more than fifty Threshold Choirs all over the United States—including, for the past year and a half, one in Ann Arbor. Tammy Corwin-Renner, director of the Ann Arbor choir, was inspired by her own experience when her mother lay dying three and a half years ago. "She was always saying 'Tammy, play me a song,'" Corwin-Renner remembers. "I played music on the piano and the harp, and I sang to her. When she died, I knew that I would become some kind of musician in hospice, but it didn't feel right to play instrumental music. So when I heard about the Threshold Choir last April, I *knew* immediately."

Corwin-Renner, who gives private piano and recorder lessons, was already leading a group of women who met regularly to sing rounds. In May 2007 she asked whether they would be willing to train to sing for dying people. The timing, as it turned out, was perfect for some of the women in the group.

Gabriella vanGeloven was helping to care for a close friend who was dying: "You know how you usually just stand around helpless and don't know what to do in those situations? [By] singing for someone who is passing, you can do something for that person, and also for the people who stay behind."

Susan Schilperoort had a friend whose seventeen-year-old daughter had been killed in a car accident earlier in 2007: "I'd done some hospice work and been a hospital chaplain, but to be a part of that home funeral—I just feel like it changed me forever. And so it felt like a natural thing for this group to flow into doing that." According to Munger, "The shiver down the back when a singer has heard about our work has been the best and most accurate audition" for the groups.

Threshold Choirs throughout the United States all operate similarly. If invited, and always for free, a small group, typically two or three women, will sing by a dying person's bedside for a brief period, usually about a half hour. Because familiar songs tend to make it harder for people to let go, Corwin-Renner says, the choirs deliberately choose unfamiliar ones, many of them composed by other choir members. The songs have few words—sometimes quotations from spiritual figures such as Mother Teresa and Thich Nhat Hanh—sung to chantlike repeated melodies.

I was very moved when I heard Ann Arbor's Threshold Choir recently at one of their rare public performances. Feeling it wouldn't be right to go with them to a dying person's bedside, I asked whether I could attend one of their weekly rehearsals.

Ten women, ranging in age from thirties to fifties, are sitting in a circle in Corwin-Renner's living room, sipping herbal tea and singing. As Corwin-Renner welcomes me, one of the women "jumps the chair," lying down on the white mesh recliner that simulates a bed. She closes her eyes, the two women on either side of her in the circle hold her hands, and the group begins to sing, "We walk not into the night, we walk but towards the stars."

Many of the songs are rounds, and in rehearsal the women sing them in parts, beginning at normal volume and singing more softly with each repetition. If this were a real patient, they tell me, they would typically sing in unison and very, very softly.

After a couple of songs and some silence, the now visibly relaxed choir member is ready to relinquish the chair to me. I sit in the recliner, tilt back, and close my eyes.

"When you were born, you cried, and the world rejoiced," the women sing. "Live your life so that when you die, the world cries and you rejoice." The words come from a Navajo prayer.

After the first time through, Corwin-Renner says softly to the other singers, "Direct your attention to San." I immediately, and physically, feel the effect of the shifting, intensified focus. It's like a warm light shining on me.

"Blessings on your journey home."

By the end of the third song I no longer notice the words and cannot distinguish individual voices. I hear only a unified sound that seems to be coming from everywhere.

"When I started this," Corwin-Renner tells me later, "I imagined that healing work would be mostly for the person we were singing to. But then I realized how much *we* were being healed. And there is a third layer: the family and caregivers. We've gone into the most tense situations, or where people were grieving so deeply, and when we're finished, the room is so much lighter—everyone seems transformed."

"You're not really trying to change something about where the person is," adds choir member Lindsay Passmore. "We just want to try to get with them in that place, and at the same time hold the possibility that this is a beautiful place and all is well."

I ask how the women can keep from crying. "I'm a really emotional person," Karen Chalmer replies. "I often cry for all sorts of happy, sad, whatever reasons. And I found, the one time that I sang, that that was nowhere in my mind. I was so focused on the sound and on the person, emotions never entered into it. But afterward I felt elated in a way, like I'd been in such a holy place."

The Threshold Choir always asks permission to sing a specific song at a bedside. Often family members and caregivers join them in singing it: "It's all right. You can go. Your memories are safe with us."

Brian (not his real name) remembers when the choir sang that song: "It was the night before my father died. He had Alzheimer's, his body was shutting down, and the hospice people had already come over. His breathing was really, really labored.

"They were tremendously respectful when they came into the room. The reverence and peacefulness they brought into my family's home was just awesome. They were only there an hour. After they left, I said to my wife, 'It's okay with me now if he goes.' It was a magical gift they gave us." ■

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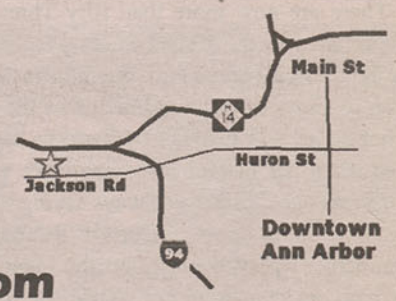

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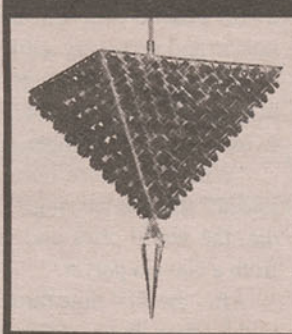

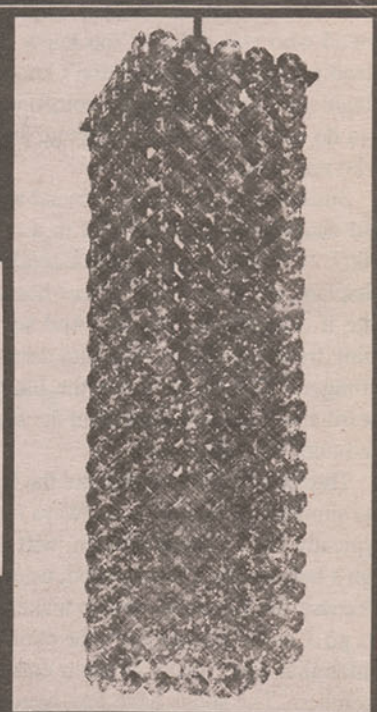

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Shopping for Santa

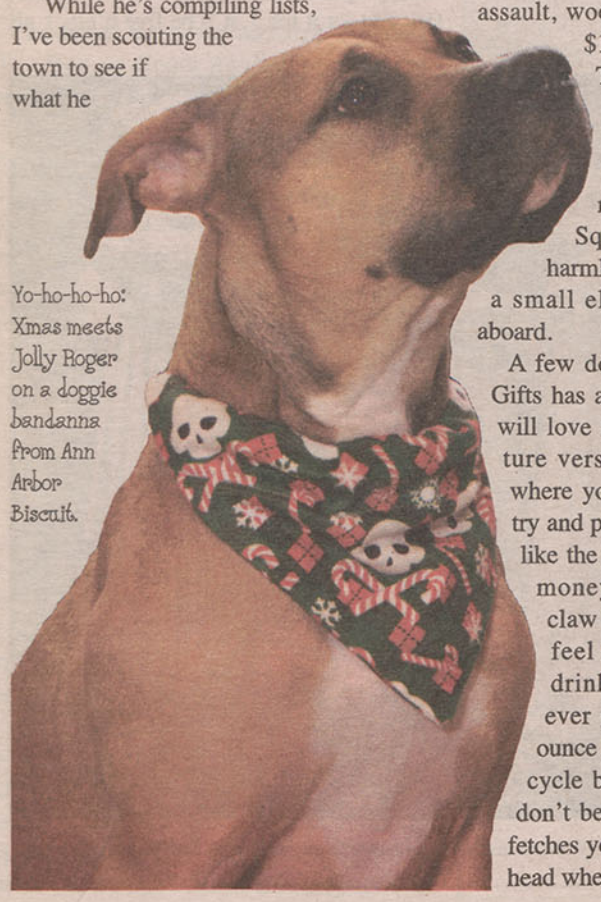
Our 2008 Holiday Shopping Guide

by Tony McReynolds

Go vintage Go Blue with a reproduction U-M football program from Pictures Plus, or smile and say "cheeseburger" with a Hamburger Phone from Middle Earth.

I suspect that my eight-year-old son no longer believes in Santa Claus, but I haven't been able to prove it. I've never asked him outright, and any attempt to trip him up would be pointless because he's wilier than I am. I do know threats that depend on the words "naughty," "nice," and "checking it twice" don't hold the same sway over his behavior they did a year ago. These days his reaction's an eye-rolling "Yeah? Santa and what army?" On the other hand, he's still capable of burbling on about all the things he wants Santa to bring him, his blue eyes big as Santa's belly.

While he's compiling lists, I've been scouting the town to see if what he wants is even available. Though I'm beginning to suspect I'm being played, my search has an upside: it's given me a chance to see what's out there, and to pass on my finds.



Yo-ho-ho-ho: Xmas meets Jolly Roger on a doggie bandanna from Ann Arbor Biscuit.

PHOTOS J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Here's something I didn't know: the primary job of a squirrel feeder isn't to feed squirrels—it's to bribe squirrels to stay away from bird feeders. If you know someone with a bird feeder under constant assault, wooden squirrel feeders start at $12 at the Wild Bird Center at Traver Village. If the thought of bribing squirrels is ethically repugnant, for $130 you can test your ethics even more severely with Wild Bill's Squirrel-Free Bird Feeder. It's harmless to birds but gives squirrels a small electric shock if they climb aboard.

A few doors down, Crown House of Gifts has a raft of great gift ideas. Kids will love the Sweet Machine, a miniature version of those arcade cranes where you manipulate a steel claw to try and pick up prizes. It's $40, but unlike the arcade version it doesn't take money to operate—so when the claw comes up empty you won't feel ripped off. Impatient beer drinkers will wonder how they ever got along without a twenty-ounce beer mug that has a kid's bicycle bell mounted to the rim. Just don't be surprised if the person who fetches your beer hurls the mug at your head when bringing it. It's $16.

If you know any skateboarders who risk their necks on rickety homebuilt ramps, the Red Belly Boardshop in the Courtyard Shops sells collapsible ramps starting at $200. (Note: they collapse when you're ready to put them away, not when you're actually using them.) Starter skateboard sets start at $120. How-to-skateboard DVDs start at $17.

In addition to books on everything from Aristotelianism to Zen, Crazy Wisdom on Main Street has a selection of hand-held massage and muscle-relaxing implements starting at $5, none of which require batteries. The most fun? Bonger tapping balls. They look like something you'd use to play the xylophone, but instead you play someone's back—the tapping motion breaks down muscle tension and stimulates circulation. They're $19.

For the dedicated recycler on your list, Ten Thousand Villages has bowls, pot mats, coasters, and other products made by third-world artisans from recycled materials like magazines, rope, broom bristles, and string. A set of four coasters is $18; bowls start at $16. You can even get a recycled seven-piece Nativity scene for $94. It's impressive: the tallest figure stands about a foot high.

It's been a miserable season for Michigan football, but that's no reason to deprive your die-hard fan of Block M stock-

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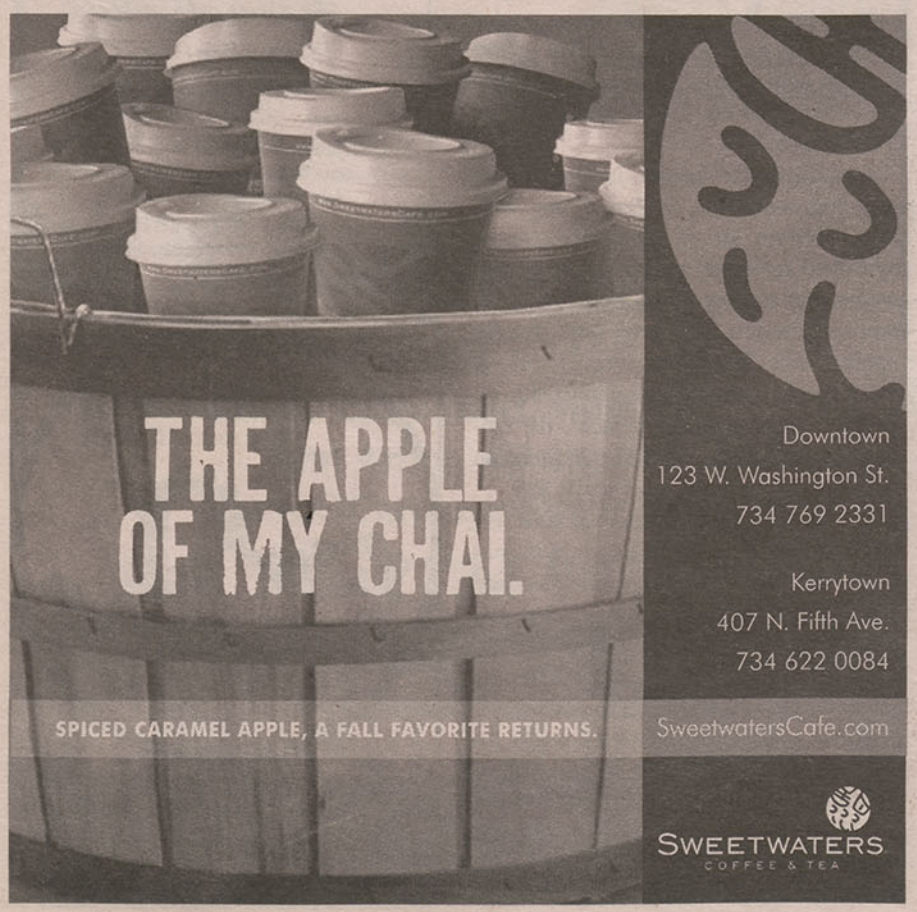

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Shopping for Santa

ing stuffers like a Michigan pasta salad—a bag filled with maize-and-blue pasta, a Game Day vinaigrette mix, and three recipes. It's $6 at the M-Den and serves eight. A Michigan hammer with a molded rubber grip that looks like the laces on a football is $20.

In our small kitchen, we don't have room for things like Santa-shaped serving platters we'll use once a year. The Carol Roeda Studio has the perfect solution: something creator Nora Fleming calls "interchangeable dinnerware." One example: a white serving platter with a hole at one end, so you can pop little ceramic figurines in and out depending on the season: snowmen for winter, a turkey for Thanksgiving, and so on. The platters start at $34, and the seasonal figures are $10 apiece.

In addition to books on everything from Aristotelianism to Zen, Crazy Wisdom on Main has muscle relaxers like Bonger tapping balls. They look like something you'd use to play the xylophone, but instead you play someone's back.

Got a new mom on your list? Urban Jewelers sells tiny pendants made up of fourteen-karat yellow or white gold cubes that look like children's building blocks. You can custom-order them to spell out a child's name and specify the birthstone in the base. And while chocolate molded into novelty shapes from roses to pianos is a growing trend, Urban Jewelers' strand of chocolate pearls is not, repeat not, edible. Made from freshwater pearls dyed a rich chocolate brown, it's $495. Matching earrings are $75.

Some people love the sound of wind chimes; others go ballistic over them. But even doubters might fall for the cool wind chimes at Sixteen Hands made from antique silverware and kitchen utensils. For $74 you can have your choice of spoons dangling from a potato masher or an orange juice strainer. For $160, there's an ornate teapot with six dangling spoons and one fork with a bent tine.

Peaceable Kingdom remains unmatched for cheap stocking stuffers that start at under a buck. The big table in the middle of the store has everything from rubber bugs to whistles to jumping frogs to bacon-flavored toothpicks. And if you know any Ann Arborites trying to sell their houses under current market conditions, pick up a three-inch plastic figurine of St. Joseph, billed as the "patron saint of real estate." You're supposed to bury him in the ground near your For Sale sign, and he'll help you sell the house. He's a bargain at $5, and you don't have to pay him a commission.

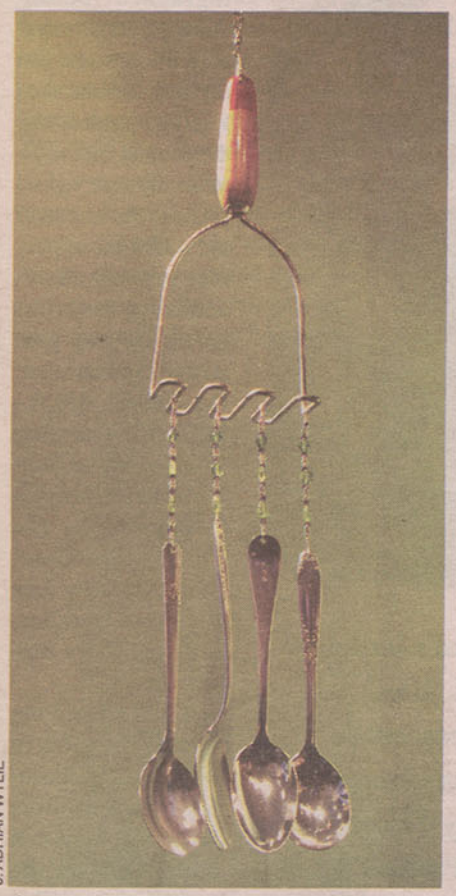
Singer Alan Jackson popularized the saying "It's five o'clock somewhere" in his ode to happy hour. Acme Mercantile's collection of hip retro wall clocks includes an "It's Five O'Clock Somewhere" clock with a big martini glass on the face. It's battery operated, so if you remove the battery and set it for 5, it'll be five o'clock all

For the devout recycler: a Nativity scene made of old magazines, from Ten Thousand Villages.

PHOTOS J. ADRIAN WYLIE

the time. It's $22. A similarly themed neon clock shaped like a martini glass is also $22. And for something that'll baffle children who've never seen a toy without batteries, try a wooden pirate popgun for $4.50.

The Ann Arbor Art Center, a few doors down on Liberty, has a unique way to keep on truckin': purses, wallets, and handbags made from reclaimed truck inner tubes by a company called English Retreads. Each is one of a kind, and prices start at $36. The Art Center also has handbags made from old car seats in green and gray for $60.



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Playing the spoons: Sixteen Hands has wind chimes crafted from antique kitchen utensils and silverware.

Batteries are never included at Lexi's Toy Box on South Ashley, because the store won't carry toys that need them. It does stock a lot of high-quality wooden toys from top names like Holztiger, Vilac, and Haba. Haba building block sets start at $20. A Russian palace complete with wooden onion-domed towers and a pyramid complete with wooden sphinx are $45 each.

Emerald Dragonfly across from Zingerman's sells amazing "bird feathers" hand carved from basswood. The detail is so astounding you'll be tempted to try ruffling them to see if they're real—only you can't; they're framed under glass. They start at $85 for a small hummingbird feather. A crow feather is $270, and an eagle feather is $450.

Just around the corner in Kerrytown Market & Shops, Ann Arbor Spice Merchants has a variety of $25 wooden gift boxes, each with four bottles of different spices. There are boxes for bakers, coffee lovers, and people who order margaritas as

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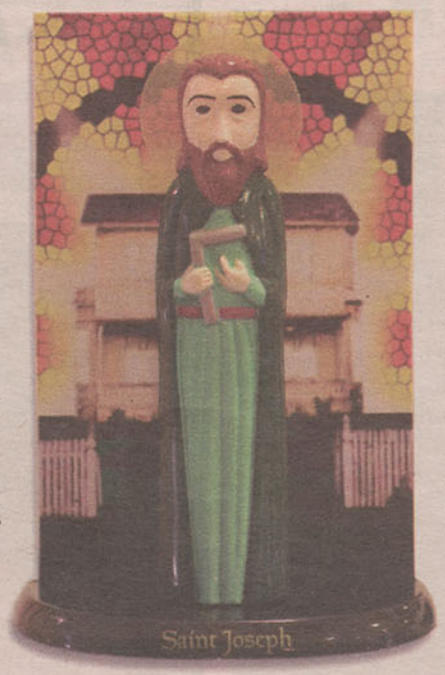
SHOPPING FOR SANTA

an excuse to lick the salt off the rim. That last collection includes gray sea salt, smoked sea salt, Hawaiian pink sea salt, and *fleur de sel*. You can also buy packets of individual spices starting at $2.79. Or you can go hog wild and splurge on the saffron—it's $10 for a gram and a half.

Hollander's carries an exhaustive selection of materials and tools needed to bind books by hand. A starter kit including instructions, spine, precut board pieces, decorative paper and cloth, and enough paper for a 200-page book is $46. For those more inclined to make a mistake than a book, erasers would make apt stocking stuffers. They're stamped with pictures of butterflies, pencils, birds, and hearts—and my favorite, the word "Oops!" They're $3.50.



Know someone who's desperate to sell a house? St. Joseph, the "patron saint of real estate," allegedly helps move even devalued property if buried in the ground near the For Sale sign. From Peaceable Kingdom.

Monahan's Seafood Market sells red cedar fish planks for $4; they're great for cooking salmon, especially when you use Monahan's own Irish whiskey maple glaze ($5 for a quarter pound).

TeaHaus on Fourth Avenue has a truly impressive Russian samovar about two feet high. It's electric and goes for $365. And the perfect tea to brew in it? Russian Samovar tea. It's a blend of Indian, Ceylon, and Chinese teas; fifty grams costs $3.50.

Kaleidoscope's a great place to pick up antique children's books, like a first edition of *Wind in the Willows* illustrated by Arthur Rackham for $1,000. And the store carries tons of antique U-M memorabilia—programs, yearbooks, and photos dating back to the turn of the twentieth century, as well as autographed souvenirs, like a helmet signed by New England Patriots quarterback and former Wolverine Tom Brady ($125).

Dogs who have been good this year deserve Christmas dog treats from Ann Arbor Biscuit, the bakery for dogs. $10 buys you a half-pound box of iced treats in holiday shapes like snowmen. And if you've always liked the idea of a dog fetching a Frisbee while wearing a bandanna but don't want to mess with tying it on, get a slide-on bandanna for $6. It goes on the dog's collar and looks like the real thing. It's like a clip-on bow tie for Bowser.

In addition to an exhaustive selection of new, used, and autographed books, Aunt Agatha's mystery-book store has mystery-themed puzzles and games, like the Murder on the *Titanic* mystery jigsaw puzzle. Put together the 1,000-piece puzzle, suss out clues, and solve the crime before the ship goes down. (Spoiler alert: the iceberg did it.) Postcards featuring lurid covers of classic Dell paperback mysteries like *The Case of the Careless Kitten* by Erle Stanley Gardner, featuring Perry Mason, are $3.

Head around the corner on Liberty for miniature chocolate ornaments from Kilwin's. You can hang them on the tree Christmas Eve and pluck them off and eat them while opening presents in the morning. They're just 85¢ apiece; flavors include hazelnut, caramel, and peanut butter, and they're wrapped in festive foil. And no one ever went wrong dropping a big bag of jelly beans in someone's stocking, assuming they aren't, like, diabetic or something. Kilwin's has them in oddball flavors like strawberry daiquiri, piña colada, and Dr Pepper, all for $8.50 a pound.

Robot Supply & Repair has cool robot-related gifts, from the Mega Mech four-

Reproduction antique cork pullers from Wine Etc. include the lyrically named Bull Horn, top left, and the Winged Wonder, top right.

PHOTOS J. ADRIAN WYLIE

foot inflatable robot to the "Is Your Little Sister a Robot?" test kit. But if you know someone who likes to fly paper airplanes, the $15 electric plane launcher is a no-brainer—it claims to launch them at thirty miles an hour.

For runners serious about staying hydrated, nothing beats the Terminator six-bottle belt. More Batman than Terminator, it fastens around your waist like the Dark Knight's utility belt, and six plastic eight-ounce water bottles fit snugly in six little holsters. Plus there's a little zippered pouch for keys and such. It's $40. A pair of Yaktrax will keep winter runners upright on even the slickest of ice; they strap to your feet the way snow chains strap to a car tire, and their lightweight coiled-steel tread makes for better traction and more speed than similar strap-ons with spikes. They're $30 at Tortoise and Hare.

It was news to me, but it turns out vinyl record albums are still being made. Underground Sounds on Liberty has a great collection of new and used vinyl, including a new reissue of the 1967 classic "Are You Experienced?" by the Jimi Hendrix Experience for $35—perfect for Hendrix fans and vinyl purists who've reduced their original copies to forty-odd minutes of pops, skips, and hiss.

The owner of Lexi's Toy Box prefers to stock imagination-fueled rather than battery-powered toys. If onion domes aren't your thing, Haba building blocks, above, also come in sets to build a castle and a pyramid.

Kitchen Port on Zeeb across from Meijer abounds in handy kitchen gadgets. This year's most popular: colorful silicone pinch holders for gripping hot plates. They're like mini-mittens for the tips of your fingers—but keep them where the kids can't reach them, because they'll want to use them as hand puppets. Also popular: an ingeniously simple device called a Utensil Pot Clip. It clips to the side of a pot or saucepan, and it's designed so you can rest ladles, spatulas, and wooden spoons across the top of the pot, so there's no messy dripping on work surfaces. They're $8.

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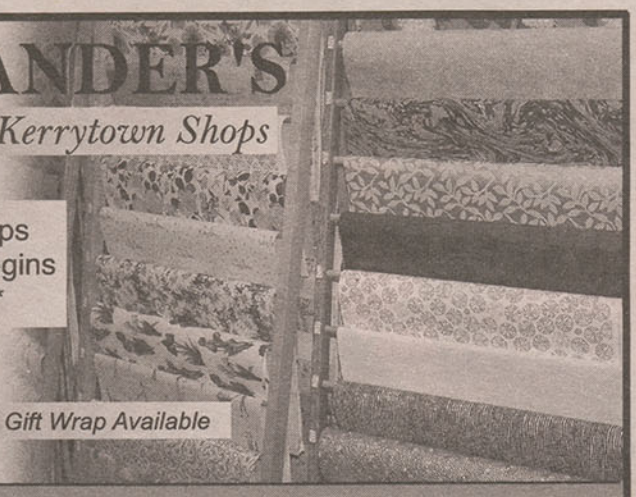

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Shopping for Santa

Next door at Wine Etc. you'll find reproductions of antique cork pullers for $22. They have names like the Winged Wonder, the Bull Horn, the Gentleman, and the Chinook, and some look more like cruel eighteenth-century dental tools than cork pullers. Bottle totes make nice gifts for the loaf-of-bread-and-thou crowd. Insulated to keep white wines cool, a single-bottle tote is $15 and comes with a bottle stopper and corkscrew.

If you can't afford to buy the biker on your list a Harley, give something with the Harley logo. American Harley-Davidson on Jackson has plenty to choose from, like $10 money clips and T-shirts that start at $21. The store even has a Harley-Davidson version of Monopoly—instead of streets, the squares are photos of famous Harley motorcycle models. It's $40.

For bikers who prefer their bikes without big, honking chrome-plated engines, Two Wheel Tango on Jackson has some pretty cool cycling gear. Lobster gloves look like what they sound like: padded, insulated gloves with two separate compartments, one for your index and middle fingers and another for your ring and little fingers. That way you can use your hand brakes without having to shift your grip on the handlebars. They're $65. Keep bundling up for winter riding with fleece-lined nylon-Lycra leg warmers for $30.

Scrapbook Heaven in Westgate shopping center is a good bet for the scrapbooker on your list. One nifty item is an $8.50 blank calendar you can personalize yourself: add the dates and personal and family holidays, and decorate it with a collage of photos, mementos, ticket stubs, or anything else that's reasonably flat and gluable. For scrapbookers on the go, a wheeled Travelmate Scrap Tote is handy. It's the perfect size for small projects and overnight trips, and it's $67.

Pictures Plus has striking reproductions of vintage Michigan football posters and game programs, like a 1948 edition of the *Pigskin Preview* highlighting that year's Rose Bowl game between Michigan and Southern Cal (we won). They're $35, or $90 framed and matted. Also eye-catching: a black-and-white reproduction of Edvard Munch's *The Scream* (the person is screaming, "How come I keep getting stolen?"). It's $170.

Chocolate milk connoisseurs who'd rather mix their own than buy ready made will love a $15 Moo Mixer Mug from Learning Express. Pour milk in the cow-patterned mug, add chocolate powder, press the button, and watch in wonder as the Moo Mixer churns it into chocolate milk at dizzying speed. Get *High School Musical* fans the *High School Musical 3* magic eight ball. Ask a question, shake the ball, and read the answer in the little window. (Question: Even though all the characters graduated in the last movie, will Disney flunk the lot of them and force them to repeat their senior year so that Disney can make *High School Musical 4* and rake in even more money? Answer: I wouldn't bet against it.)

Across the street, Top of the Lamp carries all kinds of lamp finials starting at $11. They make great stocking stuffers because they're small and you can match them to people's interests. There's one capped with a miniature leather baseball for $29, and one with a leather soccer ball for $27. My favorite was the finial topped by a miniature working clock in the shape of an antique table clock for $39.

> The saltshaker-shaped Samsa Shaker mp3 player at the Waters Road Borders skips to the next song when you shake it, so it's a lot of fun for kids. (The CD player in my car does the same thing every time I go over a bump, so I'm not sure what all the fuss is about.)

The Bungee Card Case at Ace Barnes Hardware on Stadium is perfect for people who constantly hand out business cards. The end of the case is attached with a bungee cord, so after you pull it open it to take out a card, it automatically springs shut. It's so much fun you'll be looking for excuses to network. It's $5; a Bungee Niño Case is $10. Another great stocking stuffer: the Palm Peeler, a vegetable peeler that slips over your middle finger "to put the power of peeling right in the palm of your hand!" If that sounds like mere breathless ad copy, consider that it was honored for design distinction by *I.D. (International Design)* magazine. It's $6.

For people who constantly lose their keys, backup sets are a smart idea, and REI in Cranbrook Village has all kinds of fun key rings to put them on starting at just $3. There are interest-specific ones—one made from a carabiner for mountain climbers, others shaped like fish or bikes. My favorite is a key ring and zipper pull with a built-in thermometer or compass, $7.50–$9.

The Samsa Shaker mp3 at the Waters Road Borders is $35 and shaped a little like a saltshaker—appropriately, because you skip to the next song by shaking it, so it's a lot of fun for kids. (The CD player in my car does the same thing every time I go over a bump, so I'm not sure what all the fuss is about.) Know people who are always threatening to write a book? Give them the push they need with Borders Personal Publishing software. It allows writers to self-publish in paperback or hardcover and even sell their work through Borders online. It's $500.

Light up the night and get an upper-

body workout at the same time with the Briarwood Brookstone's $25 Twist Light: thirty seconds of twisting the grip back and forth gives you enough power for five minutes of light. It's perfect for car and home emergency kits.

Those who don't have iPods may not realize it, but the original design has now been around long enough that Apple's dubbed it the "iPod Classic." If you're just now getting around to buying one, the Apple store in Briarwood has a leather iPod Classic sleeve for $30. It turns your iPod into what looks at first glance like an expensive wallet but with a digital read-out. If you know people who are always losing the earbud covers on their iPod headphones, stuff bud covers in their stockings. A set of four in assorted colors is $10.

Middle Earth on South University is another great source for unusual, hip, and deliberately kitschy gifts like the Ninja Clock. The body of the clock is shaped like a throwing star, and the pendulum is a ninja suspended in midkick. It's $30. Another favorite is the $25 Hamburger Phone, enjoying a renaissance after being featured in the movie *Juno*.

Beanie June in the back of the little mall on North University is the place to go for dressy scarves. It sells a ton of them, including a bamboo-blend scarf for $39 and a cool ombre scarf for $29 that's dyed in three different shades of the same color—so when you tie it around your neck, it looks as if you're wearing three different very stylish scarves that you just tossed together in a "What, this old thing?" kind of way. Charlotte Tarantola sweaters are another big seller and start at $98.

Around the corner on State Street, Fly can put together a starter disc golf set for $27 that includes a putter, a medium-range disc, and a driver. Disc golf bags start at $17. The small ones are the size of a small duffle bag, eliminating the need to hire a caddy unless you're looking for advice on how to approach that dogleg on the fourteenth hole.

Leg warmers are back, and American Apparel on Liberty has lots of them, starting at $42. Many come in shiny metallic colors like gray and blue, reminiscent of glittering custom paint jobs on classic 1960s muscle cars. American Apparel also has pants in hot neon colors with zippers that run all the way down the outside of each leg—presumably so you can make an emergency exit from your pants in the event of an accident. They're $59.

With any luck, I've given you a few ideas that'll make your holiday shopping a little easier. And while you're out shopping, my son and I will continue to wait each other out. Does he believe in Santa, or doesn't he? Does it make any difference? Will I have to explain yet again that Santa probably bought the present at a local store and just forgot to take off the tag? The closer to Christmas, the higher the stakes. And he is strong willed. I won't be surprised if I blink first. ■

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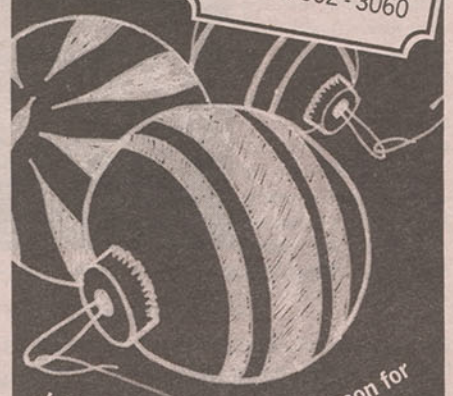

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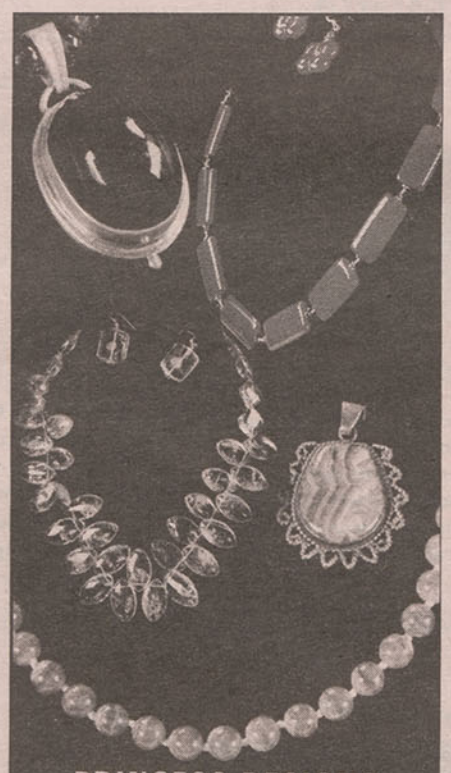

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Art sale and silent auction: 3:00 – 8:00pm of arts, crafts, and gift cards from local merchants. Proceeds support a new shelter at the Humane Society.
Cabaret: 8:00pm with author Ken Foster, musician Frank Pahl, the Gentlemen Pirates, Amanda Krugliak, and Joseph Keckler. Tickets: student $5, adults $10
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6:00-9:00pm
Slusser Gallery, 1st floor & Robbins Gallery, 2nd floor A&A Building, 2000 Bonisteel Blvd.; **Work • Ann Arbor,** 306 S. State; and **PLAY** at **www.Playgallery.org**

11.08 - 12.20

Exhibition: *For Better or For Worse: Kathryn Brackett Luchs and Michael Luchs*

New work by A&D lecturer Kathryn Luchs and Michael Luchs, Detroit artists associated with the group of artists and writers living and working in Detroit's Cass Corridor in the 1960s and '70s.
Center Galleries, College for Creative Studies, 301 Frederick Douglass, Detroit, MI

11.21 - 12.27

Exhibition: *Vision: Many Ways of Seeing*

Sculpture from ceramics programs for the blind and visually impaired led by A&D Professor Sadashi Inuzuka, including work by children and youth from the Detroit area schools, and clients of the Washtenaw County Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled.
Work • Detroit, 3663 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI

CROSSING LINES

Events: *Winter 2009 Penny W. Stamps Visitors Series*
The list of Winter 2009 Penny W. Stamps Series presenters is now online, and includes designer and architect Richard Saul Wurman, performance artist Marina Abramovic, and filmmaker and AAFF founder George Manupelli. For a complete listing go to: **www.art-design.umich.edu**

SUPPORTING PENNY W STAMPS PRESENTATIONS

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December Events

We want to know about your event!

Please send a press release (no phone calls, please).

By mail: John Hinchey, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

By fax: 769-3375.

By e-mail: hinch@aaobserver.com

After-hours drop box: right side of the Observer's front door facing Catherine.

What gets in?
We give priority to Ann Arbor events. Always include a contact person's telephone number. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (the tenth day of the preceding month) might not get in.

Next month's deadline:
All appropriate materials received by the tenth day of the month for the upcoming month will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in (but will be added to arborweb).

arborweb:
The entire Observer events calendar for the month is available at **arborweb: www.arborweb.com.** This calendar is updated daily. If you have an event not listed in the print calendar, or want to update a listed event, please send it and we'll post it on arborweb.

WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

www.arborweb.com

Honor Moore, Dec. 1

A Streetcar Named Desire, Dec. 2

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71 **Film Screenings** — *John Hinchey & Katie Whitney*

GALLERIES

43 **Exhibit Openings** — *Katie Whitney*

MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

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72 **Nightspots Review**
MoFo Karaoke — *Charmie Gholson*

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41 **Shelby Lynne**
Thank you, Barry Manilow — *Whit Hill*

45 **Adam Zagajewski**
Love and time — *Keith Taylor*

47 **Dinosaur Discovery Day**
Play among the fossils — *Corry Berkooz*

51 **Bolcom & Morris do the class of 1908**
Swinging on a star — *James Leonard*

57 **Tuck & Patti**
Fusion of souls — *James M. Manheim*

61 ***Apartment 3A***
A polar bear named desire — *Sally Mitani*

96 **Events at a Glance**

Geoffrey & Jeffrey, Dec. 4 & more

Lee Murdock, The Ark (Nightspots)

1 MONDAY

★Weekly Rehearsal: Women's Chamber Chorus. *Every Mon.* All invited to join this independent 30-member local women's chorus to sing everything from Bach and Hungarian folk songs to madrigals and pop tunes. David Perample directs. *10–11:30 a.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Free to visitors ($100 per semester membership dues for those who join). 213–3770, 769–0784.*

★"Playgroups for Babies": Ann Arbor District Library. *Every Mon. through Dec. 8.* Playgroup for kids up to 24 months, accompanied by an adult. No older siblings. *Note:* Playgroups are also offered (through the week of Dec. 8) at the Malletts Creek (Tues., 10–11 a.m., & Thurs., 6:30–7:30 p.m.), Pittsfield (Tues., 6:30–7:30 p.m.), and Traverwood (Fri., 10:30–11:30 a.m.) branches. *10:30–11:30 a.m., AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301 (main library), 327–4200 (branches).*

★"Intermediate Excel": Ann Arbor District Library. *Dec. 1 & 2.* 2-part introduction to some of this popular worksheet program's complex features. *10:30 a.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. Preregistration required. 327–4555.*

U-M Club of Ann Arbor. *Dec. 1, 8, 15, & 22.* Weekly lunchtime talks by U-M coaches. Today: wrestling coach Joe McFarland. Also this month: women's gymnastics coach Bev Plocki (Dec. 8) and coaches TBA (Dec. 15 & 22). *11:30 a.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. $14 (members, $9.25; seniors, $8.75). 663–7420.*

★"Religion and the Subversive": U-M Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies. *Dec. 1 & 8.* Talks by U-M faculty and grad students. Today: Jewish thought professor Elliot Ginsburg on **"Time, Dreams, and Laughter: Snapshots of the Subversive in Jewish Mystical Tradition (and Its Aftershocks)."** Also this month: Near Eastern studies grad student David Hughes on **"Heresy and Islam"** (Dec. 8). *Noon, 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–0350.*

Duplicate Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Mon.* All seniors age 55 & older invited to play this popular bridge format. No partner required. *12:30–3:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $1. 769–5911.*

★Bridge: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center. *Every Mon. & Fri. except Dec. 26.* All seniors invited to play bridge. Refreshments. *1–4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★Mah-Jongg: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Mon & Tues.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play this popular tile game. *1–2:30 p.m. (Mon.) & 9:30–11:30 a.m. (Tues.), Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★ESL Conversation Group: Ann Arbor District Library. *Every Mon. & Fri. (different branch locations).* All levels of English speakers invited for conversation. *1–2:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch (Mon.), 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., & AADL Malletts Creek Branch (Fri.), 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

★"Between Subjects and Rulers: Political Practice in the Earliest Mesopotamian Cities": U-M Center for Near Eastern Studies. Talk by University of Chicago Oriental Institute Museum director Geoff Emberling. *4 p.m., 202 S. Thayer, room 2022. Free. 764–0314.*

★Honor Moore: U-M English Department/U-M Museum of Art. Poetry reading by this acclaimed writer and New School creative writing professor. Moore's 2005 collection *Red Shoes* "begins with a tango and never loses the keyed-up, elegant, ritualized eroticism of the push and pull of that dangerous courtship dance," says a *Booklist* reviewer. "The abrupt turns, the dagger stares, the barely sustained restraint, all this is found in Moore's sexy, telegraphic, edgy, and rapt poetry." In conjunction with "Day With(out) Art," which memorializes the impact AIDS has had on artists and performers. *5 p.m., Michigan League Hussey Room. Free. 615–3710.*

"A Course in Miracles": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. *Every Mon.* All invited to join a group reading and discussion of this popular Foundation for Inner Peace metaphysical book. *6:45–8:45 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Donation. 327–0270.*

★Weekly Rehearsal: Out Loud Chorus. *Every Mon.* Beginning to advanced singers invited to join this chorus for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their friends. *7–9:30 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 1400 W. Stadium. Free. 973–6084.*

★Nonfiction Readers Group: Barnes & Noble. All invited to join a discussion of Elizabeth Gilbert's best-selling self-searching travelogue ***Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman's Search for Everything Across Italy, India, and Indonesia.*** Refreshments. *7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

Dream Group. *Every Mon.* All invited to join veteran local social worker Rebecca Mullen to discuss their dreams from Jungian, Buddhist, and other spiritual perspectives. *7:30 p.m., 215 N. Seventh St. Donation. 662–5925.*

★"Michigan Minutes": Ann Arbor District Library. Premiere screening of this Michigan Television 7-part series of documentary shorts examining little-known events in Michigan history. Also, encore showing of ***WW II: Through the Lens of Duane Zemper,*** a recent Michigan Television documentary profile of Howell WW II veteran Zemper. *7–8 p.m., AADL meeting room (4th floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. *Dec. 1, 8, & 15.* Instruction in a wide range of traditional and contemporary Scottish dances, followed by social dancing. Soft-soled shoes recommended. Refreshments. The Dec. 15 dance is preceded at 6 p.m. by a potluck and a holiday party. *7:30–9:30 p.m., the barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver Rd. (off Nixon Rd.). $5. 769–1052, 425–0241.*

★Large Ensemble Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society. All beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited. Directed by local flutist Corrine Hillebrand. Music provided; bring your own music stand. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a beginners class. *7:30–9:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free to visitors ($30 annual dues). 213–3172.*

★Flute Ensembles: EMU Music Department. Julie Stone and Amy Wagner direct the music-student Flute Choir and small ensembles in a program TBA. *8 p.m., EMU Alexander Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

December 2008 Event *Highlights*
Ann Arbor District Library

All events will take place in the Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room, unless otherwise noted.

Monday 7:00 - 8:00 pm — **1** — **Michigan History Night with Michigan Television** Station Manager **Jennifer White** and producers from Michigan Television present ***Michigan Minutes***, little known historical events in Michigan history, followed by a discussion
DOWNTOWN 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Tuesday 6:00 - 9:00 pm — **2** — **Purple Rose Theatre Company** presents the first Company reading of their upcoming play, ***A Streetcar Named Desire***

Wednesday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **3** — **What You Thought You Didn't Know: Understanding Compulsive Overeating • Charlea Tracey McNeal, PhD, LMSW,** discusses binge eating disorder and bulimia nervosa

Thursday 1:00 - 2:00 pm — **4** — **Gentle Nia: Music & Movement for 50+**
MALLETTS CREEK BRANCH

Thursday 6:30 - 8:30 pm — **4** — **Beyond Foreclosure: Facts, Steps and Solutions**

Sunday 1:00 - 4:00 pm — **7** — **Chess Strategies & Tips** • ALL AGES
TRAVERWOOD BRANCH

Monday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **8** — **Motawi Tileworks: Tile Making Workshop** with sibling duo **Karim** and **Nawal Motawi** • GRADE 6 - ADULT
PITTSFIELD BRANCH

Monday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **8** — Poet **Josie Kearns** of the University of Michigan discusses **Alphabet of the Ocean: How Markings on Shells May Have Inspired Ancient Written Language**

Tuesday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **9** — **The Many Festivals of Mexico** with **Stephanie Schneiderman** of Tia Stephanie Tours

Wednesday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **10** — **Feasting On Books** with **Thomas C. Foster**, author of ***How to Read Novels Like a Professor***

Saturday 1:00 - 2:00 pm — **13** — **Classical Bells Holiday Concert** This annual handbell concert is always a family favorite!

Sunday 2:00 - 3:30 pm — **14** — **Michigan Jazz** • Jazz scholar **Hazen Schumacher**, author of ***A Golden Age of Jazz Revisited***, discusses mid-20th century jazz with recorded examples

Saturday 2:00 - 2:45 pm — **27** — **Laughter Blast** • Drama teacher **Phil Walker** and storyteller **Badria Jazairi** lead a workshop with exercises based on laughter yoga and theater games • GRADE 4 - ADULT

Sunday 4:00 - 4:30 pm — **28** — **Dancing Babies!** • Sing and dance with musicians **Betsy Beckerman** and **Sara Melton Keller** • BABIES - AGE 5
TRAVERWOOD BRANCH

Tuesday 10:00 - 10:30 am — **30** — **Silly Stories** with **Laura Pershin Raynor** Listen to silly tales with colorful characters and laugh with Laura!
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 3

Tuesday 6:00 - 8:30 pm — **30** — **Game On With The Vault** • GRADE 6 - ADULT We're teaming up with **Vault of Midnight**, Ann Arbor's favorite comic and game store, for some Euro-style family games!

For more information, call 327.4200 or visit our website at aadl.org

1 MONDAY *continued*

★Anthony Elliott: U-M School of Music. *Dec. 1 & 4 (different programs).* This U-M cello professor plays Bach suites. Tonight: Suite no. 1 in G Major, Suite no. 2 in D Minor, and Suite no. 3 in C Major. *8 p.m., U-M Music School Blanche Anderson Moore Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

★"Mad about Chamber Music": Kerrytown Concert House. *Dec. 1 & 8.* An informal concert by U-M music students of instrumental and vocal works in solos, duos, trios, and quartets. Proceeds benefit a local charity. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free; donations accepted. Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Mon.* Local high school English teacher Geoff Cost throws out questions for anyone to answer at this popular weekly trivia fest. Prizes. *8:30–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $5 team fee. 665–2968.*

2 TUESDAY

★Game Day: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Tues.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play poker, mah-jongg, Scrabble, bridge, tile rummy, and Wii bowling, boxing, and more. *9:30–11:30 a.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★Preschool Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library. *Every Tues. through Dec. 9.* Stories and songs for kids age 2 & up (accompanied by an adult). *Note:* These storytimes are also offered (through the week of Dec. 8) at the Malletts Creek (Wed., 10–10:30 a.m.), Traverwood (Wed., 6–6:30 p.m., and Thurs., 10–10:30 & 11–11:30 a.m.), and Pittsfield (Thurs., 7–7:30 p.m., and Fri., 10–10:30 a.m.) branches. *10–10:30 a.m., AADL youth department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301 (main library), 327–4200 (branches).*

★Children's Hour: Shaman Drum Bookshop. *Every Tues. except Dec. 23 & 30.* Shaman Drum staff read picture books for kids ages 2–6. *11 a.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center. *Every Tues.* Activities begin at 10 a.m. with **"Fitness Fun"** ($4), a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar, followed at 1 p.m. by a chance to play **mah-jongg, cards,** and **board games** or join **quilting** and other craft projects. Homemade buffet luncheon ($3) available at noon. All invited. *11 a.m.–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

"Telecommuting Tips, Thoughts, and Trends": Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce getDowntown Program Commute Lunch. Talk by getDowntown director Nancy Shore, followed by discussion. Lunch provided (preregistration required). *Noon–1:30 p.m., Chamber of Commerce, 115 W. Huron. $10 (Chamber of Commerce & go!pass members, free). 214–0100.*

★Brown Bag Lecture: U-M Institute for the Humanities. *Dec. 2 & 9.* Talks by U-M and visiting scholars. Bring a bag lunch. Today: U-M French professor Katherine Ibbett discusses **"Novel Feelings: Compassion and Toleration in Early Modern France."** Also this month: U-M German professor Johannes von Moltke discusses **"War-Film-Feeling: On Alexander Kluge."** *Noon–1:30 p.m., 202 S. Thayer, room 2022. Free. 936–3518.*

★"Addicted to Beauty: Web-Based Chinese Danmei Fiction and the Recasting of Romance": U-M Center for Chinese Studies. Grinnell College Chinese professor Jin Feng discusses this Chinese genre of homoerotic tales of idealized love between male figures mostly written by women for women's consumption. Free sandwiches, cookies, & coffee served. *Noon–1 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–6308.*

★"Bach's Lunch Organ Concert Series": Bethlehem United Church of Christ. Local keyboardist Martha Folts plays clavichord and virginal works TBA. Followed by lunch ($5). *12:15 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 665–6149.*

★"Beginning Computers": Ann Arbor District Library. *Dec. 2 & 3.* Hands-on 2-part introduction to computers, with an emphasis on basic skills. *1–3 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. Preregistration required. 327–4555.*

★"Gender and Piety: Practice and Belief in Medieval Jewish and Christian Communities in Northern Europe": U-M Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. Talk by Bar-Ilan University Jewish history and gender studies professor Elisheva Baumgarten. *4 p.m., Frankel Center, 202 S. Thayer. Free. 763–9047.*

★"Luminous Trash: Throwaway Robots in 'Blade Runner,' the 'Terminators,' 'A.I.,' and 'WALL-E'": U-M College of Literature, Science, & the

country music

Shelby Lynne

Thank you, Barry Manilow!

Mary Isabel Catherine Bernadette O'Brien was, of course, Dusty Springfield. Shelby Lynne is, of course, Shelby Lynne. The intersection of these two singers—one a phenomenally popular beehive-haired, blue-eyed-soul chanteuse of the British Invasion, the other an in-your-face, risk-taking, frail but steely darling of America's alt-country world—can be heard in Lynne's fascinating new album of Springfield covers, *Just a Little Lovin'*.

Lynne's start-and-stop career, twenty years peppered with highs and lows, bad timing, and bum luck, would try the patience of a saint. Lynne's no saint—who is?—and her frustration, coupled with her fine, daring voice and fearless approach to performing, have yielded some great songs and a faithful cadre of fans who understand and appreciate her, and urge her on. Of course the bright lining of a more or less independent career is the ability to just go off and do what you want—like a Dusty Springfield record. (The idea actually came from Barry Manilow, who emailed her the suggestion.) "It's usually career suicide to do an album of covers," Lynne told the *New York Times Magazine* last year, "but I thought, 'Why not?'"

Finding the right producer—one with deep knowledge of the source material, but a willingness to allow Lynne to find her own way with it—was critical. She found that producer in Phil Ramone, known for his work on albums by Paul Simon and Billy Joel. The result is a collection of songs that take the listener back to the thrill of hearing them so long ago, but also bring that listener someplace new and different. It's a heady experience. In many of the cuts, Springfield's sparkly late-1960s glamour has been tamed and simplified. Songs like "I Only Want to Be with You," "Breakfast in Bed," and "The Look of Love" now simmer with a stripped-down, almost plaintive heat. Lynne lays the words out to dry in the sun. These songs have never been so beautiful.

"Look, I don't want to be Dusty," Lynne told the *Times*. "I just want to remind people about her and about these great songs. I wanted to make the kind of album that she might have made today."

Shelby Lynne comes to the Ark (see Nightspots) on Monday, December 1.

—Whit Hill

Arts. Lecture by U-M English and women's studies professor Patricia Yaeger. Reception follows. *4:10 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater (4th floor). Free. 998–6251.*

★**"17th Annual Light a Memory": St. Joseph Mercy Hospice.** All invited to join Hospice staff to remember a departed loved one by relating personal stories and listening to readings and music. Votive candles distributed to take home. Followed by dessert reception. Proceeds benefit hospice programs. *5 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Education Center auditorium, 5305 E. Huron River Dr. Optional donation. (888) 418–5572.*

★**"A Streetcar Named Desire": Ann Arbor District Library.** Purple Rose Theatre artistic director Guy Sanville directs a cast reading of Purple Rose's upcoming winter production of the classic Tennessee Williams drama. It stars Michelle Mountain, Qarie Marshall, and Charlyn Swarthout. *6–9 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

★**"Knit Happens": Ann Arbor Stitch 'n' Bitch.** *Every Tues.* All knitters invited to bring their current projects to work on and swap knitting tips. *6:30–8:30 p.m., location TBA. Free. 945–3035.*

★**Common Thread Knitters Club.** *Dec. 2 & 16.* All knitters invited to meet members of this local knitting group and exchange tips. *7 p.m., Arborland Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

★**Ann Arbor Area Writers Group: Arborland Borders.** *Every Tues.* All local writers invited to bring samples of their writing to read and discuss. Observers welcome. *7–9 p.m., Borders computer section, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 665–8194.*

★**"Holiday Party": Mothers and More.** All moms invited to join other local moms for a white elephant gift exchange (bring one to swap). Games. Refreshments. Bring wine to share if you wish. *7–9 p.m., Gladwin Meeting Place, 4105 W. Liberty. Free. 527–6880.*

English Country Dancing: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. *Every Tues. except Dec. 30.* Historical and traditional English dancing. Today: callers Dan Blim and Marty Wilson with music by Brad Battey, David West, Donna Baird, and Nawal Motawi. Also this month: callers Greg Meisner and Bronwen Gates with music by Childgrove (Dec. 9), callers Ray Bantle and Blim with music by Debbie Jackson, Martha Stokely, Battey, and Motawi (Dec. 16), and callers Bantle and Shirley Harden with music by Anne Orman, Betsy Foote, West, and Baird (Dec. 23). All dances taught. No partner or experience needed. Dress comfortably and bring flat, non-slip shoes (running shoes OK). *7–9:30 p.m., Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. $7 (students, $4; children age 13 & under, free). 665–7704.*

★**Health Sessions: Washtenaw Whole Foods Market.** *Dec. 2, 9, & 10.* Talks by Whole Foods staff and local health practitioners. Today: staffer Jill Brown on **"Healthy Aging."** Also this month: nutritionist Judy Stone on **"Maintaining an Even Keel Through the Holidays"** (Dec. 9) and chiropractor Darren Schmidt on **"Emotional Wellness"** (Dec. 10). *7 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration requested. 975–4500.*

★**"The Toledo War: The First Michigan-Ohio Rivalry of 1835": Nicola's Books.** Retired *Ann Arbor News* columnist Don Faber discusses his new book about land disputes between Michigan and Ohio before Michigan became a state. Signing. *7 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★**"The Autobiographer's Handbook: The 826 National Guide to Writing Your Memoir": Shaman Drum Bookshop.** Longtime 826 Valencia tutor **Jennifer Traig** discusses this collection she edited of essays by prominent memoir writers, including Nick Hornby, Maxine Hong Kingston, Frank McCourt, Sarah Vowell, and others. Signing. 826 Valencia is a San Francisco-based nonprofit (with a locally active chapter) dedicated to supporting students ages 6–18 with their writing skills. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**Sweet Adelines County Connection.** *Every Tues.* All women invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local 40-member barbershop harmony chorus.

FRIENDS BOOK SHOP

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Protecting a Free Press while Journalism is in Turmoil

Wednesday,
December 3, 2008
7:30 p.m.

An interactive forum co-hosted by the National Press Club and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library

Hear what the experts have to say about the First Amendment, freedom of the press and the future of journalism.

Visit the website for panelist information.

♦♦♦

A reception follows.
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(734) 205-0555
www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov
At the corner of Beal Ave. and Fuller opposite VA Hospital

First United Methodist Church
of Ann Arbor

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14
Messiah — G. F. Handel (Christmas portion), with chorus, soloists, and orchestra
Downtown worship, 9:30 & 11:15 am

"The Bethlehem Inn"
Youth drama, Downtown, 6:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24
Downtown Christmas Eve Services
5 pm Children's Service
7 pm Family Service
9 pm Communion Service
11 pm Candlelight Service
$2 parking at Liberty Sq. Garage before 6:30 pm; free after 6:30 pm
Green Wood Christmas Eve Service
5 pm Candlelight Family Service

Downtown: 120 S. State St. at Huron
Regular Sunday worship at 9:30 & 11:15 am
Radio broadcast of previous week's service: 8 am Sunday, on WLBY 1290 AM

Green Wood: 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way
Regular Saturday worship at 5 pm

734.662.4536
www.fumc-a2.org

2 TUESDAY *continued*

7–10:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Hall, 8975 Textile Rd. (west of Rawsonville Rd. off I-94), Ypsilanti. Free to visitors ($20 monthly dues for those who join). 480–8843.

★Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of SPEBSQSA. *Every Tues.* All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. *7:30 p.m., Stony Creek United Methodist Church, 8635 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to visitors ($130 annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance. For information, call Greg Humbel at 445–1925.*

★Weekly Rehearsal: Treetown Community Chorus. *Every Tues.* All invited to join this fun-loving independent local mixed chorus to sing mostly familiar tunes, along with some serious music, in various genres. David Perample directs. *7:30–9 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Free to visitors ($80 per semester membership dues). 213–3770.*

★Washtenaw Ski Touring Club. *Dec. 2 & 16.* Today: running and ski coach Pete Edwards demonstrates **Nordic ski walking.** Also this month: a presentation TBA and a ski equipment swap (Dec. 16). *7:30 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 662–SKIS.*

★Ann Arbor Camera Club. Club members show their recent slides and prints, including those on the club's current topic, **"Cityscapes."** *7:30 p.m., Forsythe Middle School Media Center, 1655 Newport Rd. at Sunset. Free ($15 annual dues for those who join). 327–4781.*

★Spanish Readers Group: Nicola's Books. All invited to join a discussion, in Spanish, of ***Instrucciones para Salvar el Mundo,*** Rosa Montero's adult fable about 4 people whose destinies cross unexpectedly. *7:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

"The Swift Path": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. *Every Tues. through Dec. 16.* Talks by **Gehlek Rimpoche,** an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor, or one of Gehlek's senior students. *7:30–9 p.m., Jewel Heart Center, 1129 Oak Valley Dr. (just south of Ann Arbor–Saline Rd.). $10 (students & seniors, $5). 994–3387.*

★"About Rudolf Steiner's Insights into Human Life": Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor. Last in a series of 7 biweekly lectures by U-M physics professor emeritus Ernst Katz. Tonight's topic: **"The Anthroposophical Society and Its School of Spiritual Science."** *7:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes. Free. 485–3764.*

★Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music. *Dec. 2 & 4 (different programs).* Joshua Major directs U-M music students in Menotti's comic opera *The Telephone* and in scenes from Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love* and Mozart's *Cosi Fan Tutte. 7:30 p.m., McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

★German Speakers' Round Table. *Every Tues.* All German speakers invited for conversation. *8–10 p.m., Grizzly Peak Brewing Company, 120 W. Washington. Free admission. 453–2394.*

★"Christmas Plus": U-M Organ Club. Seven members of this student-run club perform carol settings and organ masterworks on the First Presbyterian Church's recently renovated Schoenstein organ. Includes works by Bach, Buxtehude, Dupre, Widor, Andriessen, and others. *8 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free; donations accepted for the church's music fund. 565–5226.*

"Firefly Funnies": The Firefly Club. Showcase of top local stand-up comics, along with some improv comedy. *8–11 p.m., Firefly Club, 637 S. Main. $3. 665–9090.*

★"Triple Double Trivia": The Arena Sports Grille and Bar. *Every Tues.* All invited to try a wide-ranging trivia quiz for such prizes as T-shirts, hats, and gift certificates. Bonus points awarded for "stupid human tricks" like drinking beer upside down, dancing to Michael Jackson songs, or inserting an entire fist into your mouth. *10 p.m., The Arena, 203 E. Washington. Free. 222–9999.*

3 WEDNESDAY

"Rockin' for the Hungry": Food Gatherers/ Busch's. *Dec. 3–7.* Live broadcasts by Ann Arbor's 107one DJs. Nonperishable food donations requested for Food Gatherers. *7 a.m.–7 p.m. (Dec. 3–6) & 10 a.m.–3 p.m. (Dec. 7), Busch's, 2240 S. Main. Free admission. 761–2796.*

★"Storytime for Boys and Girls": Waters Place Borders. *Dec. 3, 5, & 6.* Borders staffers "Ms. Kathy" and "Ms. Joan" read stories, lead sing-alongs, and play kids games. *10 a.m., Borders, 3140 Lohr Rd. Free. 997–8884.*

★Wednesday Winter Ride: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Wed.* The assembled riders choose their own pace, distance, and destination. *11 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 994–5908.*

★"Storytime with Miss Annette": Arborland Borders. *Every Wed. & Fri. except Dec. 26.* Borders staffer "Miss Annette" reads stories and leads a craft project for toddlers. Also, raffle. *11 a.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 449–9394.*

★"With or Without Women's Movements? Democratization, Economic Transformation, and Women's Equality in Central Asia": U-M Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies. Talk by University of Wyoming history professor Marianne Kamp. *Noon–1 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–0351.*

★Chime Concert: Kerrytown Shops. *Every Wed., Fri., & Sat.* All invited to play one of 100 songs, with melodies transcribed in numbers, on the 17–bell tower's numbered keys. Ambitious players can add chords. Local chimemaster Heather O'Neal demonstrates. *Noon–12:30 p.m. (Wed. & Fri.) & 10:30–11 a.m. (Sat.), Kerrytown. Free. 369–3107.*

★Brown Bag Organ Series: U-M School of Music. Recital by U-M organ professor **James Kibbie** and local tenor **Thom Spafford.** Program TBA. Bring a bag lunch. *12:15 p.m., U-M School of Public Health Community Room, 109 S. Observatory. Free. 764–0594.*

★Social Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Wed.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play bridge. No partner required. *12:45–3:45 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★Chess: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center. *Every Wed.* All seniors invited to play chess. Refreshments. *1–4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★"The Rise of Phonocentrism in the Korean Language and Literature": U-M Center for Korean Studies. Talk by Rutgers University Korean language and culture professor Youngmi Yu Cho. *4–5:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–2252.*

★"How Should the New Administration Approach Trade with Latin America?": U-M Ford School of Public Policy. Panel discussion with Peterson Institute for International Economics senior fellow Gary Hufbauer, former Costa Rica foreign trade minister Alberto Trejos, and U-M Business School economics and public policy professor Katherine Terrell. *4–5:30 p.m., Weill Hall Annenberg Auditorium, 735 S. State at Hill. Free. 615–3893.*

★Scrabble: Ann Arbor Scrabblers. *Every Wed. except Dec. 24 & 31.* All invited to join local Scrabble enthusiasts to play this popular word game. Bring a board and tiles, if you have them. *5–8 p.m., Arbor Brewing, 114 E. Washington. Free. 994–0084.*

Magic: the Gathering Tournament: Get Your Game On. *Every Wed., Thurs., & Sun, except Dec. 25 & 31.* All invited to compete in a tournament using the standard constructed (Thurs. & Sun.) and legacy constructed (Wed.) editions of this popular collectible card game. Also, a booster draft tournament ($15 includes cards) at 6 p.m. on Fridays. Bring your own cards. *6 p.m. (Wed. & Thurs.) & 1 p.m. (Sun.), Get Your Game On, 709 Packard. $5. 786–3746.*

Wine Tasting: Paesano's Restaurant. *Every Wed. except Dec. 24 & 31.* A chance to sample 5 different Italian wines each week, in an informal and friendly setting, with a selection of appetizers. *6–7 p.m., Paesano's, 3411 Washtenaw. Space limited; reservations recommended. $20. 971–0484.*

Ann Arbor Bridge Club. *Every Wed.* All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early to arrange for one. *7–11 p.m., Walden Hills clubhouse, 2114 Pauline at Maple. (Park on the north side of Pauline.) $3 per person. 971–7530.*

"The Best of 2008": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's cofounder Ari Weinzweig discusses and offers taste samples of some of Zingerman's most notable products, including perennial favorites, obscure oddities, new foods, and old ones that hit it big this year. *7–9 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs), 422 Detroit St. $30 in advance, $35 at the door. Space limited; reservations required. 663–3354.*

★"What Your Children Really Want for the Holidays: Presents vs. Presence": U-M Center for the Child and the Family. Talk by local social worker Eileen Bond. *7–8:30 p.m., 1465 East Hall, 530 Church. Free. Preregistration required. 764–9466.*

★"Living Without God: New Directions for Atheists, Agnostics, Secularists, and the Undecided": Shaman Drum Bookshop. WSU history of ideas professor Ron Aronson discusses his new book. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★Works-in-Progress Series: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. Featured writers read from their

galleries

Ryan Spencer Reed's photograph *The Cost of Sile* is at Concordia University's Kreft Center for the Arts through Dec. 7.

New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor District Library. *Downtown Branch,* 343 S. Fifth Ave.: *Ciao, Italy: The 12th Annual Exhibit of the Michigan Quilt Artists; Money and the Human Experience: Emil Brendt's Collection of Money from around the World* (Dec. 3–Jan. 14). ***Malletts Creek Branch,*** 3090 E. Eisenhower: *Glimpses of Asia: Photographs of China, Thailand, and Cambodia by Joan Zald* (Dec. 17–Jan. 30). 327–4510.

Barclay Gallery, 218 S. Main. *Chinese Watercolors* (Dec. 1–31). 663–2900.

Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. *Space Holiday* (Dec. 13–Jan. 31). See 13 Saturday Events listing. 657–2337.

EMU Ford Gallery, Ford Hall, E. Cross between Welch Hall and Boone Hall, Ypsilanti. *Gift of Giving II: Lithographs, Silk-Screen Prints, and Etchings Donated by Albert Scaglione* (Dec. 1–5). 487–1268.

EMU University Art Gallery, 900 Oakwood, Ypsilanti. *Annual Juried Student Art Show; Graduate Thesis Exhibitions* (Dec. 1–19). Reception 2 Tues., 4–7 p.m. 487–0465.

Gallery Project, 215 S. Fourth Ave. *Step Right Up: Interactive Photography Backdrops* (Dec. 10–Jan. 18). 997–7012.

Gifts of Art (U-M Hospitals). *Mystical Snowflakes: The Tarot & More by Thomas Clark; Wind-Up Toy Robot Collection; Saline Area Schools Student Group Show; Colors of Michigan: Oil & Watercolor Paintings by Marcia Selley; Art Dolls by Rosie Chapman; Medieval Illuminations: Historic Pigments on Parchment by Randy Asplund; Cell-A-Brate: Medical Paintings on Silk by Nancy Tilson-Mallett; Ann Arbor Close Up; Photography by Pat O'Malley; Paris in Quotes: Color Photography by Sandy Schopbach* (Dec. 15–Feb. 9). 936–ARTS.

Kreft Center for the Arts (Concordia University), 4090 Geddes. *The Sudan Project: Photographs by Ryan Spencer Reed* (through Dec. 7). 995–7591.

Museum on Main Street, 500 N. Main. *Trains to Toyland* (Dec. 13–Jan. 25). See 13 Saturday Events listing. 662–9092.

River Gallery, 120 N. Main, Chelsea. *Textiles by Sue Moran* (Dec. 6–Jan. 18). Reception 6 Sat., 5–8 p.m. 433–0826.

U-M Duderstadt Center Gallery, 2281 Bonisteel. *Un Museo de la Region Andina: Works by U-M Spanish Students* (Dec. 9–19). 763–3266.

U-M International Institute, 1080 South University. *Jews of Cuba: Photographs* (through Dec. 31). 763–9200.

U-M Map Library, Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library, eighth floor. *Highlights of the Map Library* (Dec. 18, 4–7 p.m.). 764–0407.

U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. *Plants of Mexico* (Dec. 3–Jan. 4). 647–7808.

U-M Special Collections Library, Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library, seventh floor. *From Papyri to King James: The Evolution of the English Bible* (Dec. 3–Jan. 31). 764–9377.

Vault of Midnight, 219 S. Main. *Cartoon Superheroes by Jay Brant* (Dec. 5). Reception 5 Friday, 4–8 p.m. 998–1413.

For a complete listing of local galleries, see the 2008–2009 Ann Arbor Observer City Guide or arborweb.com.

current work. Tonight: U-M art professor **Stephanie Rowden** presents an audio essay from her time in Krakow. Also, readings by U-M Residential College creative writing students **Meghann Rotary** and **Anna Prushnikaya.** *7–9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

★**Visitors Night: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club.** All invited to check out the trains whizzing around on the club's big, elaborate layout, housed in a depot restored by the club. *7:30–10 p.m., Michigan Central depot, 3487 Broad St., Dexter. Free. 426–5100.*

★**Shamanic Journeys.** *Dec. 3, 10, & 17.* Using special postures, participants enter a meditative state to the beat of a shaman's drum and discuss their experiences afterward. *7:30 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 320–9559.*

★**"Protecting a Free Press While Journalism Is in Turmoil": U-M Ford Presidential Library/National Press Club.** A panel of journalists TBA discusses the First Amendment, freedom of the press, and the future of journalism. *7:30 p.m., Ford Library, 1000 Beal. Free. 205–0555.*

★**Opera Workshop: EMU Music Department.** Kathleen Segar directs EMU opera students in memorable scenes from various operas. *8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

"Apartment 3A": Purple Rose Theatre Company. *Every Wed.–Sun. (except Nov. 27), Oct. 16–Dec. 20, and Dec. 16. See review, p. 61.* Guy Sanville directs Purple Rose founder Jeff Daniels's poignant, densely layered 1996 comedy. A public TV fund-raiser starts a new life in a new apartment after being dumped by her boyfriend. While she tries to sort out her feelings, she is preoccupied by the attentions of two very different men, the budget woes of public broadcasting, and the problem of evil in general. Cast: Matthew David, Michael Brian Ogden, Rhiannon Ragland, and Will David Young. *3 & 8 p.m., Purple Rose, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets $25 (Sun. eves., Wed., &*

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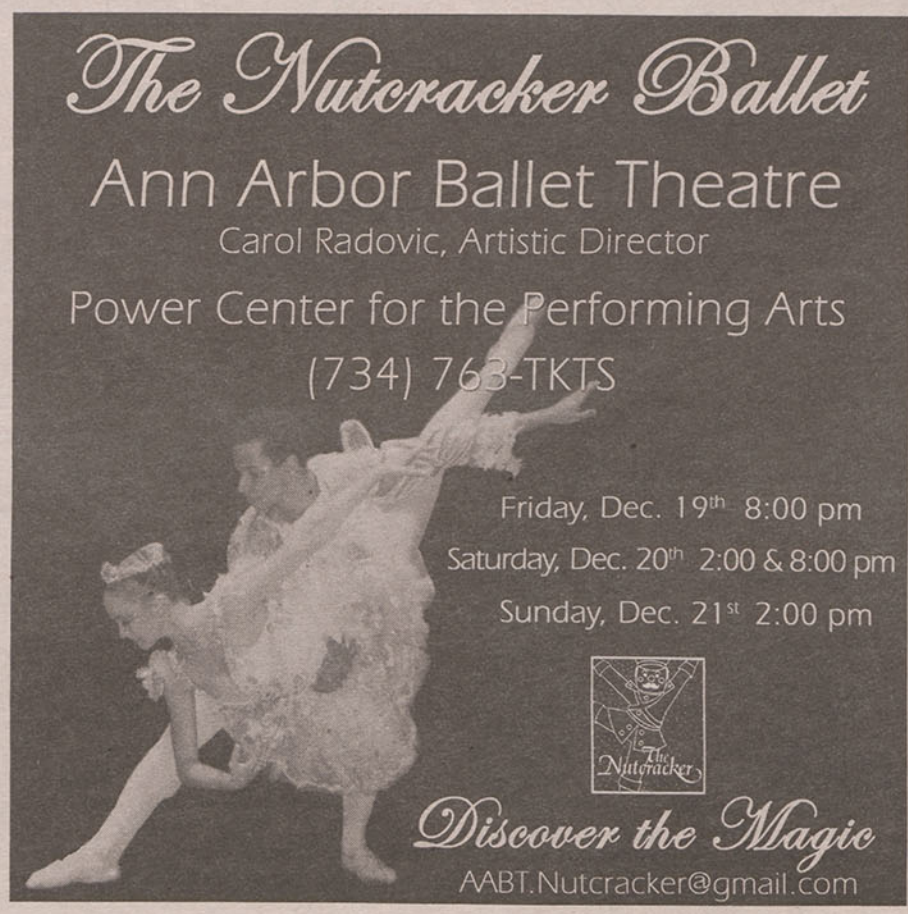

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"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Dec. 3 & 10.* Performances by up to 12 aspiring area stand-up comics. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $5 in advance and at the door. 996–9080.*

★**"Greenhills Stargazers": Greenhills School.** *Dec. 3 & 19.* All invited to join Greenhills teacher Deano Smith and Greenhills astronomy students to look at the sky through binoculars (bring your own, if you have them) and the school's telescope. *8:30–10 p.m., Greenhills School (park near the athletic entrance), 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. 205–4037.*

"Juke Box Jungle": Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Wed. except Dec. 24 & 31.* Conor O'Neill's staff member Brian Aherne hosts a music trivia quiz. Prizes. *9–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $3 team fee. 665–2968.*

Wednesdays @ Michigan Union: Swing Ann Arbor. *Dec. 3, 10, & 17.* Swing dancing to prerecorded music. No partner needed. Bring casual or nicer shoes that stay on your feet when you're active. Preceded by intermediate swing (7:30 p.m.) and beginning swing (8:30 p.m.) lessons. *9:30–11 p.m., Michigan Union Pendleton Room (occasionally Ballroom or U-Club). $5 (includes lessons). 945–8428.*

4 THURSDAY

★**Thursday Lunch Bunch: Jewish Community Center.** *Every Thurs. except Dec. 25.* A weekly program of activities primarily for seniors. The program begins at 10 a.m. with **"Fitness Fun,"** a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar. On Dec. 4 & 11, an 11 a.m. **Current Events** discussion group led by Heather Dombey is followed at noon by a homemade dairy lunch ($3 with reservation, $4 without reservation and for nonseniors) and at 1 p.m., a cultural or educational program. Today: Beth Israel Congregation rabbi **Robert Dobrusin** discusses a topic TBA. Preceded at 12:30 p.m. by a celebration of December birthdays. On Dec. 11, Don Devine and David Owens present **"The Happiness Boys,"** a performance inspired by the act of the famous vaudeville duo Billy Jones and Ernest Hare. Also, at 12:30 p.m. on Dec. 11, Jewish Family Services **geriatric social worker Allison Pollock** is on hand to answer questions. The Dec. 18 program features an **intergenerational Hanukkah celebration** (bring Hanukkah artifacts and stories to share) with JCC Early Childhood Center preschoolers at 10:30 a.m., a **holiday lunch** with potato latkes at 11:30 a.m., and a performance by singer-pianist **Rachel Kis** at 12:30 p.m. The day always concludes at 2:15 p.m. with a meeting of the **Senior Literary Group,** a book discussion group led by U-M Dearborn English professor emeritus Sidney Warschausky. *10 a.m.–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

"Religion and Ethnicity in Other Cultures": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. *Dec. 4, 11, & 18.* Last 3 in a series of 6 lectures by different U-M and guest scholars. Today: U-M anthropology professor Andrew Shryock discusses **"The Arabs and Muslims of Greater Detroit: A Century in Transition."** Also this month: U-M history professor Hussein Anwar Fancy discusses **"A Shared World: The Mediterranean in History"** (Dec. 11), and U-M history professor Susan Juster discusses **"Religion in America: An Immigrant Faith"** (Dec. 18). *10–11:30 a.m., Best Western Executive Conference Center, 2900 Jackson Rd. $45 (members, $30) for the 6-lecture series, $25 (members, $10) per lecture. Memberships are $15 a year. Preregistration required. 998–9351.*

ACBL Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Thurs. except Dec. 25.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. *Noon–3:30 p.m., Cobblestone Farm barn, 2781 Packard. $5. 769–5911.*

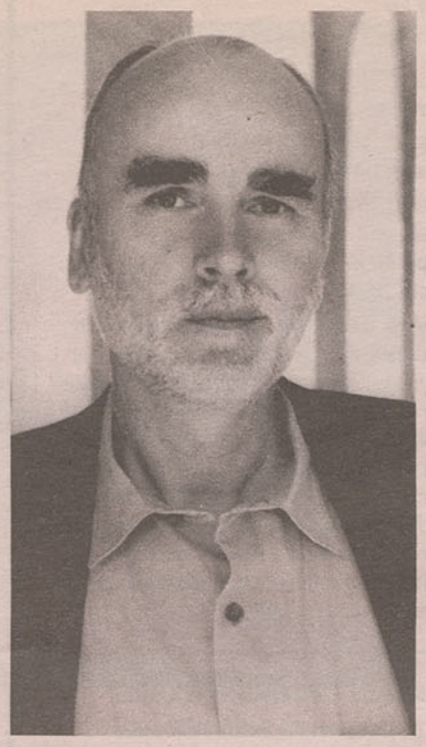
63rd Annual Greens Market: Ann Arbor Branch of the Women's National Farm and Garden Association. Sale of fresh greenery wreaths, bundles, swags, and other arrangements for holiday decoration. Also, vendors' handmade gifts and crafts, a bake sale, and a sale of antiques "from the very best attics." Decorative craft demos (1 & 2 p.m.). Afternoon Delight lunch available. All proceeds benefit local educational programs. *Noon–4 p.m. (open 10 a.m. to members), Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free admission. Wheelchair-accessible. 428–8445.*

★**"Mizrahi Jews as Women? What Gender Studies Can Teach Us about Jews of the Middle East, North Africa, & Central Asia": U-M Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies.** Talk by Hebrew College (Boston) cultural anthropology

poetry

Adam Zagajewski

Love and time



Of the poets who have been awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature during the last quarter century or so, almost all of them are primarily concerned with history and the individual's place within the historical swirl. Of these poets, a disproportionate number have been from Eastern Europe. This should come as no great surprise; the countries of Eastern Europe have both a long literary tradition and a more recent history of totalitarian oppression. It's a place where the power and significance of words cannot be denied, ignored, or turned into some kind of ironic aside.

Adam Zagajewski has not (yet) won the Nobel. A Pole born at the end of World War II, he came of age before the collapse of the Wall and to maturity during the rebellions in Poland during the 1980s. Since the early 1990s he has split his time among Krakow, Paris, and various places in the United States where he has held teaching posts, usually for half a year. He writes about great cities where history and myth often clash with the concerns of daily life. Willing to confront large themes, he also has a keen eye for the tiny, luminous detail.

His most recent book in English takes its title, *Eternal Enemies,* from a poem written to celebrate marriage—"Only in marriage do love and time,/eternal enemies, join forces." It's hard to imagine an American poet comfortable with that emotion, that kind of statement, or that level of abstraction. Another poem, "The Greeks," starts with a large historical and literary allusion, moves into the poet's personal history of childhood under the dour and fearful presence of Stalin, and then ends on an ecstatic moment that sounds a little bit like William Carlos Williams at his most exuberant:

I would have liked to live among the Greeks,
talk with Sophocles' disciples,
learn the rites of secret mysteries,
but when I was born the pockmarked
Georgian still lived and reigned,
with his grim henchmen and theories.

Those were years of memory and grief,
of sober talks and silence;
there was little joy—

although a few birds didn't know this,
a few children and trees.
To wit, the apple tree on our street

blithely opened its white blooms
each April and burst
into ecstatic laughter.

We get very few chances to hear a poet who has this kind of energy, this range, and this courage before the ultimate questions. Adam Zagajewski reads at the U-M's Rackham Amphitheater on Thursday, December 4.

—*Keith Taylor*

professor Alanna Cooper. *Noon, 2022 Thayer, 202 S. Thayer. Free. 764–0350.*

★**Gifts of Art: U-M Hospitals.** *Dec. 4, 6, 11, & 18.* Performances by local musicians. Today: a program of music ranging from Baroque to contemporary jazz by the U-M grad student duo of violinist **Javier Orman** and pianist **Matthew Brower.** Also this month: a holiday variety show by **Nephrology & Friends** (Dec. 6, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.), an ensemble of U-M nephrology faculty, staff, and patients, and holiday music by the **Ypsilanti Youth Orchestra** (Dec. 11, 12:10 p.m.) and the local band **Counterpoint** (Dec. 18, 12:10 p.m.). *12:10 p.m., U-M Hospital lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.*

★**"Gentle Nia: Music and Movement for 50+": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local dance and fitness instructor Megan Rose introduces this aerobic exercise that combines elements of classic movement forms, martial arts, yoga, and dance. *1–2 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

★**"My University.com, My Government.com: Is the Internet Really a Blessing for Democracy?": U-M Davis, Markert, Nickerson Lecture on Academic and Intellectual Freedom.** Talk by Harvard law professor **Cass Sunstein.** This illustrious annual lecture series honors 3 U-M faculty members who lost their jobs when they refused to testify before the notorious House Un-American Activities Committee in 1954. *4 p.m., U-M Law School Honigman Auditorium, 625 S. State. Free. 936–1841.*

★**"Carbon Democracy": U-M Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies.** Talk by New York University politics professor Timothy Mitchell. *4–6 p.m., 1014 Tisch Hall, 435 S. State. Free. 764–6305.*

★**"Alone in America": U-M School of Public Health.** Award-winning New York University sociology professor **Eric Klinenberg** discusses his forthcoming book about the increasing number of people living alone. *4 p.m., 1655 SPH, 109 S. Observatory (use Washington Heights entrance). Free. 764–8094.*

★**"Yappy Hours": DogmaCatmantoo.** *Every Thurs. except Dec. 25.* All invited to join a casual group discussion about pets and pet-related issues. Bring your pet. Snacks. *5–7 p.m., DogmaCatmantoo, 208 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 929–0022.*

"Thursday Night Rush Hour Relief at the Wine Bar": Cranbrook Whole Foods Market. *Dec. 4, 11, & 18.* Whole Foods staff discuss wine and cheese. (See Quick Bites, p. 92.) Also, tastings and small plates of food. Today's topic: **"Sparkling Wines and Champagne."** Also this month: **"Australian Wines"** (Dec. 11) and **"Cellar Selections and Great Gifts"** (Dec. 18). Also on Dec. 7 & 14, 4–7 p.m., a **holiday wine tasting** (small charge for each taste) with holiday food samples. *5–7 p.m., Whole Foods Wine Bar, 990 W. Eisenhower Pkwy., Cranbrook Village shopping center. $17. 997–7507.*

★**Adam Zagajewski: U-M English Department.** *See review, above.* Reading by this widely acclaimed poet who came of age as one of the "New Wave" of anticommunist Polish poets born shortly after WW II. His poetry, which he calls "mysticism for beginners," is known for its entrancingly detailed surfaces and surprising associative leaps. Czeslaw Milosz has described Zagajewski's poetry as "a meditation on the flowing of time in which the historical and the metaphysical meet." *5 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater. Free. 615–3710.*

★**Wangechi Mutu: U-M School of Art and Design Penny Stamps Lecture Series.** Talk by this Kenya-

UMS Choral Union
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Photograph by Ryan Spencer Reed

Boar's Head Festival

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December 2008 Events

✦ *Denotes events that are free*

Gallery & Lecture

The Sudan Project: Photographs by Ryan Spencer Reed ✦

Exhibit runs through December 7
Kreft Gallery

Over the last several years, documentary photographer, Ryan Spencer Reed, has recorded the displacement of the people of Darfur, Sudan. His photographic images are powerful witnesses to the experiences of those who were and are caught up in these events and serves as an appeal for peace, which advocates for the people affected by the violence in Sudan.

sudanproject.ryanspencerreed.com

Music

Concordia Jazz Ensemble ✦

Friday, December 12 • 8:00 p.m.
Kreft Center Black Box Theatre

The Concordia University Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Sean Dobbins, performs a wide variety of jazz styles, from funk to blues to swing.

Theatre

The 31st Annual Boar's Head Festival

December 5 & 6 • 7:30 p.m.
December 7 • 4:00 p.m.
Chapel of the Holy Trinity
Tickets: $8–15

Students, faculty and staff come together to enact medieval Christmas traditions and the story of Christ's birth in this moving spectacle, with musical direction by Brian Altevogt. Beginning in 1978, through the vision of three Concordia professors—Paul Foelber, John Sturmfels and Quentin Marino—the Boar's Head Festival has become a treasured memory for many. It remains a vibrant and living tradition as it continues to profess the wonder of the Christmas miracle.

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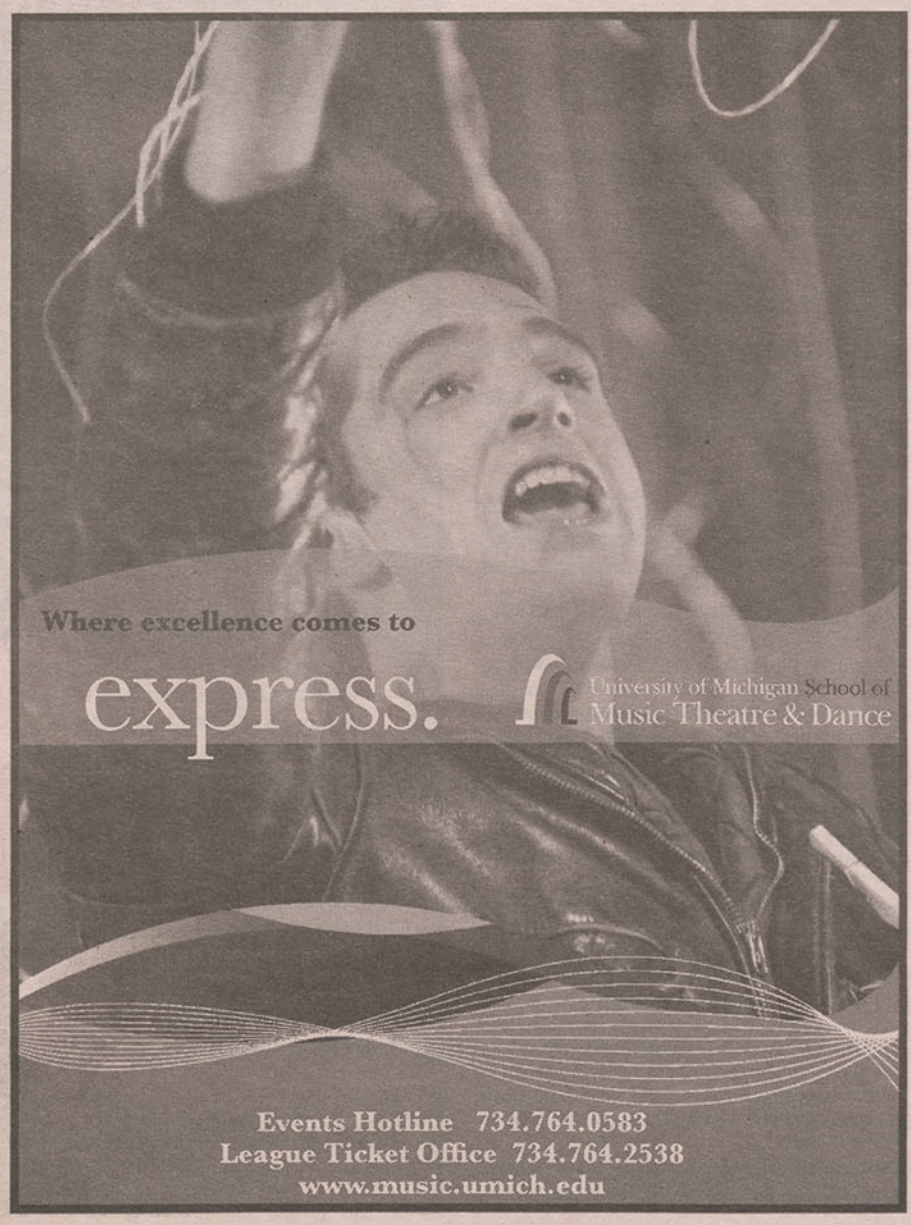

born New York–based artist whose collages center on the female body. Her "morbid and seductive montages" illustrate a "precarious balance of effervescent surface and dire political connotation," says *Contemporary Art Quarterly* reviewer David Hatcher, who calls them "exquisite corpses for a globalized era." *5 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 647–2337.*

★**Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music.** See 2 Tuesday. The 5 p.m. program is the same as on Dec. 2. The 7:30 p.m. program includes arias from various operas and monologues from Shakespeare. 5 & 7:30 p.m.

★**"Food Insecurity: The Impact on African Women and Children": U-M Institute for Research on Women and Gender.** Talk by Rutgers University public policy professor Meredith Turshen. *5:30 p.m., 4701 Haven Hall, 505 S. State St. Free. 764–9537.*

★**Board Game Night: Get Your Game On.** *Every Thurs. except Dec. 25.* All invited to bring their own favorite board game or play one of the store's. *6 p.m., Get Your Game On, 709 Packard. Free. 786–3746.*

★**"A Closer Walk": Alliance for World AIDS Relief and Education.** Screening of Robert Bilheimer's 2002 documentary about the AIDS epidemic. Followed by a discussion with U-M social work professor Larry Gant. This event is part of World AIDS Week (for a complete schedule of local events, see umich.edu/~aids). *6–9 p.m., Angell Hall Auditorium. Free. helpaware.org.*

★**"Beyond Foreclosure: Facts, Steps, and Solutions": Ann Arbor District Library.** Representatives of the Housing Bureau for Seniors, Washtenaw County treasurer's office, MSU Extension, and EMU counseling clinic discuss resources available to Washtenaw County residents faced with impending or possible foreclosure. *6:30–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

ACBL Bridge: Ann Arbor City Club. *Every Thurs. except Dec. 25.* All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. *7 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. $5. 761–6691.*

★**Ann Arbor Go Club.** *Every Sun. & Thurs. except Dec. 25.* Players of all skill levels invited to play what's regarded as the world's most difficult board game. No partner necessary. Boards and stones provided. *7 p.m.–midnight (Thurs.) & 1–6 p.m. (Sun.), Espresso Royale, 322 S. State. Free. 417–5547.*

★**"The Secret": Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers.** *Every Thurs.* Local hypnotherapist Christo Bowers leads a 30-minute meditation session. The program begins with instruction for beginners and ends with discussion. *7–8 p.m., Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers Studio B, 2007 S. State. Free; donations accepted. 945–8602.*

★**Reiki: Center for Intuitive Health.** Local reiki master Ray Golden discusses this healing technique and gives minitreatments. *7 p.m., location TBA. Free. 663–9724.*

Higher Consciousness Group: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. *Every Thurs. except Dec. 25.* All invited to discuss and practice techniques to raise consciousness. *7–8:30 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Donation. 353–0906.*

★**Annual Show-and-Tell: Huron Hills Lapidary & Mineral Society.** Bring red and green (or otherwise holiday-themed) minerals for a group show and tell. *7 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh St. Free. 655–5574.*

★**"The Infinite Landscape: Master Photographers from the UMMA Collection": U-M Museum of Art Off/Site.** *Dec. 4, 7, & 18.* Docent-led tours of the current UMMA exhibit. *7 p.m. (Thurs.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), UMMA Off/Site, 1301 South University. Free. 763–UMMA.*

★**"The Taste of Home Cookbook": Waters Place Borders.** *Taste of Home* editor **Catherine Cassidy** discusses the 2nd edition of the magazine's cookbook featuring reader-submitted recipes. Signing. *7 p.m., Borders, 3140 Lohr Rd. Free. 997–8884.*

★**"Dinner and a Movie": Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice.** Screening of ***Knowledge Is the Beginning,*** Paul Smaczny's 2005 documentary about the West-Eastern Divan, a youth orchestra with both Arab and Jewish musicians. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a potluck dinner. Bring a dish to pass if you wish. *7 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 1400 W. Stadium. Free. Reservations requested. 663–1870.*

★**"Bullets, Bombs, and Fast Talk: Twenty-Five Years of FBI War Stories": Shaman Drum Bookshop.** Former FBI Critical Incident Negotiation Team supervisory member **James Botting** reads from his new memoir. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**Open Mike: VOLUME Poetry Project.** Poets, writers, rappers, musicians, comics, and singers invit-

kids science

Dinosaur Discovery Day

Play among the fossils

Inside the elegant 1920s golden marble lobby at the U-M Exhibit Museum, children gather around a folding table to guess how many Brazil nuts are in a jar. A staffer restocks cold apple cider and cookies. A flushed three-year-old in a pink sweater howls; her father grits his teeth and carries her out the door. In the quiet, parents urge children to examine permanent exhibits in the lobby. "Oh, cool!" cries a boy, pointing to eight perfectly formed trilobites caught swarming for eternity in a fossil.

This is the annual Dinosaur Discovery Day at the U-M Exhibit Museum. On the second floor, fifteen kids kneel, shoulder to shoulder, around a shallow sand pit. Their hands and knees embedded in the sand, they dig furiously for fossils. "I got one!" cries a girl, beaming. Another child holds out two fossils. "You can only have one," says another girl in a bossy tone. In a nearby diorama an endless battle rages between a tiny saber-toothed tiger and even smaller human combatants.

Two towering mastodon skeletons dominate the center of the main hall. The top of a girl's blue dinosaur paper hat reaches the mastodons' knees as she roams around the room. Excited volunteers offer information on the layered teeth of one fossil. Adults pick up a black eighteen-inch stegosaurus horn for a closer look.

In the back of the hall, a cheerful helper in a Michigan T-shirt instructs families how to make dinosaur paper hats. Behind the busy crafters, a brown thirty-two-foot-long edmontosaurus skeleton cast rests in a base of white material in an open case. "Look, I have a quadriceratops," says a laughing mother. She points to her toddler's four-pointed pastel hat.

On the third floor, two girls and a boy enact a play with "Paleo Puppets." A *T. rex* puppet sings his ABCs in tune while a two-year-old girl in a jumper spins in circles. Three glassy-eyed squirrels survey the puppet show from above. The puppeteers cry, "Here, Mommy—watch this show." The children don't notice a snarling wolf, body tense, teeth braced, and fur on end, that stands two feet away behind glass.

A disco ball welcomes dancers to the "Dino Dance" on the fourth floor. Music throbs as children whirl in the dark. Colored lights flash on the walls. In another gallery down the hall, silent children stir plaster with water at a fossil-casting table while their parents crash on puffy chairs.

Outside the tall windows, late afternoon shadows darken brick buildings. The moon gleams in a blue, cloudless sky. At five o'clock, children and parents make their way downstairs to greet the icy air. Spiky dinosaur crowns rattle in the wind.

Dinosaur Discovery Day returns to the Exhibit Museum on Saturday, December 6.

—Corry Berkooz

ed to perform. *7 p.m., The Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington. Free. 214–9995.*

★Fall Concert: U-M Residential College Singers. RC students present a program of choral music TBA. Also, a guest performance by the **Boychoir of Ann Arbor.** *7 p.m., RC Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free; donations accepted for aid efforts in Darfur. 647–4378.*

"A Christmas Carol": Emergent Arts. *Dec. 4–7 & 11–14.* Tim Henning directs his adaptation of Dickens's familiar tale of Ebenezer Scrooge's tortuous journey from bilious tightwad to gracious benefactor. Cast: Steve Elliott, Andrew Taylor, Bill Cross, Andy Jentzen, Patricia Petiet, and Bob Seeman. *7 p.m., Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, 3257 Lohr Rd. $15 (seniors & students with ID, $12; kids age 12 & under, $10) in advance at emergentarts@hotmail.com and at the door. 330–7815.*

Ann Arbor Ski Club. *Dec. 4 & 18.* All age 21 & older invited to learn about the club's downhill and cross-country ski and snowboarding outings and other social activities. Followed by a **casino night** (Dec. 4) and a **Christmas party** (Dec. 18, dressy attire, bring an unwrapped child's gift for charity). Refreshments. *7:30–11 p.m., Cobblestone Farm barn, 2781 Packard. $10 (Dec. 4) & $5 (Dec. 18). 786–2237.*

Israeli Dancing: Jewish Community Center. *Every Thurs. except Dec. 25.* West Bloomfield dance instructors Cheryl Felt and Amnon Steiner lead a variety of Israeli dancing to recorded music. Easy dances and oldies the first hour followed by intermediate and requests. Beginners welcome. New dances taught each week. Wear sneakers or other flat, comfortable shoes. *7:30–10 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $6 (kids, $3). 971–0990.*

★Upper School Orchestra and Choir Concert: Greenhills School. All of the school's choirs are joined by the orchestra in a program TBA. *7:30 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. (off Earhart). Free. 205–4091.*

★Winter Choir Concert: Huron High School. Richard Ingram and Bonnie Kidd lead all of the Huron choirs in a program of works by Rene Clausen, Hans Leo Hassler, Maurice Durufle, James

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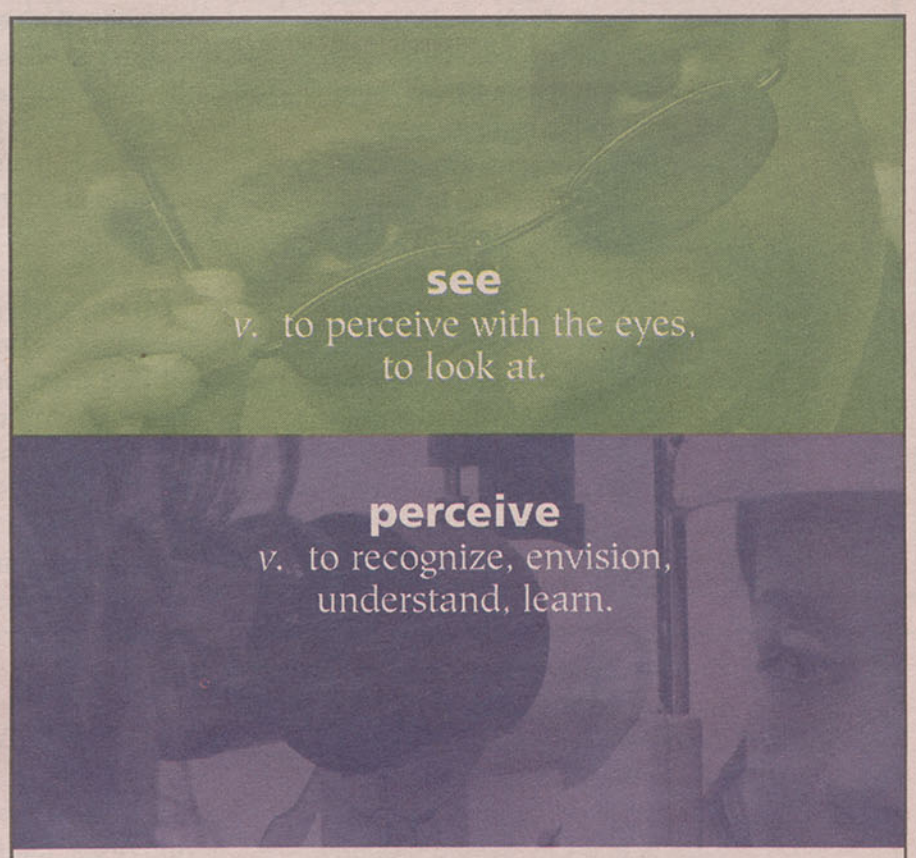

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SNOW REMOVAL

City of Ann Arbor

STREETS

Where there is light snow or ice on road surfaces, the City's Public Services Area clears over 94 miles of high volume streets, bridges, intersections with stop signs or traffic signals, and streets with curves. De-icing materials are applied to provide better traction for vehicles to help prevent accidents at high-risk locations. The street clearing process takes about five hours and may be repeated as needed. After the major and high-risk streets are cleared, City crews de-ice the local streets in the City, which requires ten to twelve hours.

When a snowfall of four inches or more occurs, street snow plowing begins and the City Administrator may declare that a "snow emergency" is in effect. Plowing is done on all public streets and City-owned property; however, all schools and privately owned areas provide for their own de-icing and plowing. Citizens are advised to remove cars from curbside parking to allow for effective street plowing.

When a "snow emergency" is in effect, illegally parked vehicles may be ticketed and towed.

The City snow desk is staffed when a snow emergency is in effect. The snow desk tracks the location of plows throughout the City and provides information to the public about the plowing progress. You may reach the snow desk at 994-2359.

*** On days having odd-numbered dates, vehicles are prohibited from parking on the side of the street having even-numbered street addresses**– in order to allow plows to clear the even-numbered side of the street. Parking is permitted on the side of the street with odd-numbered addresses in legal spaces.

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SIDEWALKS

When there is a snow event in Ann Arbor, the City depends on its citizens to be helpful, responsible, and aware of the need to remove all snow and ice from the public sidewalks including walks and ramps leading to a cross walk.

During the winter months, many Ann Arbor residents (including children walking to school and the physically challenged) need to be able to safely use the public sidewalks. This means that all snow and ice should be removed from the entire constructed width enabling people of all ages and physical conditions to have access to clean pedestrian walkways. City council has passed an ordinance regarding snow removal (violations can result in fines up to $500), but reminds you that sidewalk snow removal is simply a combination of courtesy and caring toward all those who need to use the public sidewalks.

The City reminds owners or occupants of non-residentially zoned properties that all snow and ice which has accumulated on the adjacent public sidewalk prior to 6am must be removed by noon. Immediately after the accumulation of ice on such a sidewalk it must be treated with sand, salt or other substance to prevent it from being slippery. Within 24 hours after the end of each accumulation of snow greater than 1 inch, the owner or occupant of every residentially zoned property must remove the accumulation from the adjacent public sidewalk. Remember, accumulation can occur from any source including precipitation and drifting, and the term "sidewalk" includes adjacent walks and ramps leading to crosswalks, typically at corners. Ice must be treated as mentioned above and removed within 24 hours after accumulation. Last but certainly not least, please exercise caution and care when shoveling, especially during extreme cold.

Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy Winter Season from the City of Ann Arbor

Please save for reference throughout the snow months.

Revised August 2003

Syler, and others. *7:30 p.m., Huron High School, 2727 Fuller Rd. Free. 994–2040.*

★**Annual Winter Sing: Pioneer High School.** Kenneth Westerman leads all 11 of the school's vocal groups in an eclectic program of traditional and contemporary choral music, highlighted by the annual favorite "Wintertime Aglow." *7:30 p.m., Pioneer High School Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium at S. Main. Free. 994–2120.*

"Pride and Prejudice": U-M Theatre Department. *Dec. 4–7.* New York–based freelance director Timothy Douglas directs U-M drama students in James Maxwell's adaptation of Jane Austen's durably popular 1813 novel about an independent, gracious, and sharp-minded young woman with 4 sisters and an overbearing matchmaking mother whose good sense and determination not to be undone meet their match in a handsome but mysterious young man. *7:30 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Tickets $18 & $24 (students, $9) at the Michigan League Box Office in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538.*

★**Motor City Metro Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.** *Every Thurs. except Dec. 25.* All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. *8–10 p.m., ICC Education Center (behind Luther House at 1520 Hill). Free to visitors ($130 annual dues for those who join). Park on Lincoln or Baldwin. 474–1155.*

★**Rene Lecuona: EMU Music Department.** Recital by this University of Iowa piano professor. Program TBA. *8 p.m., EMU Alexander Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**Jazz Ensemble & Jazz Lab Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** Ellen Rowe and Dennis Wilson direct these music-student ensembles in compositions and arrangements by Bob Brookmeyer, Ken Schaphorst, Mark Lopeman, and Andrew Bishop. The ensembles are joined by vocalist Emily Bergman for a performance of Pete McGuinness's arrangement of Charlie Chaplin's "Smile." *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

★**Anthony Elliott: U-M School of Music.** See 1 Monday. Tonight: Bach's Suite no. 4 in E-flat Major, Suite no. 5 in C Minor, and Suite no. 6 in D Major. 8 p.m.

"Ruddigore; or, The Witch's Curse": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. *Dec. 4–7.* Rebecca Nathanson and Rikki Gimelstob direct this accomplished local town-and-gown company in Gilbert & Sullivan's wonderfully funny send-up of the conventions of 19th-century melodrama. Set in a fishing village on the coast of England, the story concerns a lonely aristocrat who suffers under his family's ancient curse: he must commit at least one atrocity a day or face a death of unspeakable agony. The problem is he's really a nice guy, with no stomach for dastardly deeds. The plot takes several delicious twists, including sudden switches of identity and romantic affections, ancestral portraits coming to life, and a preposterous legal resolution (a favorite device with Gilbert, himself a failed lawyer). The score is one of Sullivan's best, but the work is seldom performed, mainly because of the difficult special effects it calls for. *8 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater. Tickets $18 & $22 (students, $10 & $14; seniors, $14 & $18) in advance and at the door. 764–2538.*

"Geoffrey & Jeffrey": Performance Network Professional Season. *Every Thurs.–Sun. (except Nov. 27), Nov. 6–Dec. 28.* David Wolber directs the world premiere of Royal Oak playwright Kim Carney's gleefully over-the-top comedy, based on the local couple of Charlie Sutherland and the late Jim Posante, about an older gay couple who discover that one of them has both a daughter and a granddaughter. Cast: Tom Whalen, Paul Hopper, Laurel Hufano, and Heidi Bennett. *8 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets $27 & $29 (Thurs.), $32 & $34 (Fri. & Sun.), $25 & $27 (Sat. matinee), and $39 & $41 (Sat. eve.) available in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. $3 discounts available for seniors age 60 & over. $10 student discounts available in advance, half-price student tickets at the door only. For reservations, call 663–0681; to charge by phone, call 663–0696.*

Tom Simmons: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Dec. 4–6.* Up-and-coming young observational and topical humorist known for his provocatively skeptical takes on everything from politics and religion to the minor absurdities of everyday life. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking shows. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $8 (Thurs.) & $11 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $10 (Thurs.) & $13 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

"Apartment 3A": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

5 FRIDAY

★**21st Annual Hometown Holiday: Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce.** *Dec. 5–7.* This popular community celebration features a variety of family activities, including a chance for kids to visit Santa and do craft activities in his workshop, and gingerbread house displays in downtown shop windows. *Dec. 5:* **tree lighting ceremony and Santa's arrival** (5:45 p.m., Pierce Park), **Living Nativity** (6:30–7:30 p.m., Palmer Ford), **Santa's workshop** and **storytelling** (6:30–8:30 p.m., Chelsea Depot), **Chelsea High School Choir Holiday Concert** (7–7:45 p.m., Chelsea District Library), and more. *Dec 6:* **Holiday Art Show** (10 a.m.–4 p.m., Chelsea Fairgrounds), Sheila Pursglove reads her ***The Mouse Ate the House*** (10:30 a.m.–noon, Chelsea District Library), **Common Chords** bell choir (2–3 p.m., Chelsea District Library), **Hometown Holiday Light Parade** (6 p.m., Main St.), **After-Parade Party & Community Sing** (7–9 p.m., Chelsea Teddy Bear Factory), and more. *Dec. 7:* **Chelsea Chamber Players Holiday** Concert (3 & 7 p.m., Chelsea Depot) & **Holiday Festival of Lessons and Carols** (6:30 p.m., Chelsea Retirement Community Chapel) and more. *9 a.m.–10 p.m. (Dec. 5 & 6) & noon–7 p.m. (Dec. 7), downtown Chelsea. Free. 475–1145.*

"Tiny Tot Time": Leslie Science and Nature Center. A program of hikes, storytelling, songs, puppets, and crafts for kids ages 1–3 (accompanied by a caregiver). Snacks provided; dress for the outdoors. *9:30–11 a.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $6. 997–1553.*

★**"Never a Dull Moment! Curating at the Historic Henry Ford Estate": U-M Museum Studies.** Talk by Henry Ford Estate curator Susan McCabe. *Noon–1 p.m., 7603 Haven Hall, 505 S. State St. Free. 936–6678.*

★**"Migrant Workers and HIV Risk in Thailand": U-M Center for Southeast Asian Studies.** Talk by School of Public Health lecturer Kathy Ford. *Noon–1:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–0352.*

★**"Violence and the Politics of Oil": U-M Center for the Study of Complex Systems.** Panel discussion with Columbia University Middle East and Asian languages and cultures professor Timothy Mitchell and U-M Middle East and South Asian history professor Juan Cole. *Noon–1 p.m., 1014 Tisch, 435 S. State. Free. 763–3301.*

★**Socrates Cafe: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Fri.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to join a discussion of ethics that draws on the Socratic method of questioning underlying assumptions. *1–1:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**"W Is for Waves": Barnes & Noble.** U-M Museum of Zoology biological illustrator **John Megahan** shows kids how to draw some of the sea animals and other images he painted to serve as illustrations for Marie & Roland Smith's new Sleeping Bear Press children's book. *4 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★**"Jashn-e-Azadi": U-M Center for South Asian Studies.** Screening of Sanjay Kak's 2007 Kashmiri documentary about tensions between Kashmir and India. Kashmiri, Urdu, & English; subtitles. Followed by a discussion. *4 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 936–0996.*

December Craft Show "Moonlight Madness": Saline Community Education. Juried show and sale of works by more than 135 crafters from around the Midwest. Screenings of ***The Santa Clause*** (6 & 8 p.m.), John Pasquin's 1994 family film starring Tim Allen as a man who takes Santa's place after the original's untimely demise. Also, a cookie walk, a gingerbread house contest and display, gingerbread cookie decorating (5–9 p.m.), and an appearance by Sheila Pursglove (see 6 Saturday "Kids Club" listing). Silent auction. Child care available until 8 p.m. for kids ages 6 months–8 years. Concessions, bake sale. *5–11 p.m., Saline Middle School, 7190 N. Maple, Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., Saline. $2 (children age 10 & under, free). 429–8020.*

★**Annual Holiday Pottery Sale: Yourist Pottery.** *Dec. 5–7.* Show and sale of pottery by 14 artists. Also, studio tours and pottery demonstrations. Tonight only: an artists reception with wine and snacks. *6–9 p.m. (Dec. 5), 10 a.m.–6 p.m. (Dec. 6), & 10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Dec. 7), Yourist Pottery & Design Studio, 1160 Broadway. Free admission. 662–4914.*

★**"Midnight Madness": Kerrytown Shops/Main Street Area Association.** Many merchants are open late tonight with special sales. Also, sidewalk performances by the U-M student a cappella chorus Kopitonez, the U-M Women's Glee Club, and Leim Irish Dance as part of "Festive Friday Holiday Nights" (see below). *6 p.m.–midnight, Kerrytown*

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Saturdays 10:15am to 11:05am

January 3, 2009 through March 7, 2009

Classes are held at the Ann Arbor Ice Cube.
Early evening and Saturday Registration dates are as follows:
Tuesday, Dec. 9th 6-8pm
Thursday, Dec. 11th 6-8pm
Saturday, December 13th 9am-12pm
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734-213-6768 * www.annarborfsc.com
Email: aaskating@yahoo.com

popular song

Bolcom & Morris do the class of 1908

Swinging on a star

Every good song recital should have a theme, even if it's only "An Evening with Frank Sinatra." Otherwise how is the audience supposed to know what it's in for? So for Joan Morris and Bill Bolcom, the question is, Why did they choose "Swinging on a Star: Class of 1908" for their recital on Saturday, December 6, at Kerrytown Concert House?

"We needed a new focus," replies Morris by phone from a friend's apartment in New York, "and one hundred years ago were born Harold Rome, Johnny Green, and Johnny Burke. And they wrote such wonderful songs: 'Swinging on a Star,' 'South America, Take It Away,' and, of course, 'Body and Soul.'"

But why Burke's "Swinging on a Star"? Why not Green's "Body and Soul"? "Because it's the happiest title. And it's a great number: remember Bing Crosby singing it to those little kids in *Going My Way*? And it's hopeful—which is something we need now with the financial situation the way it is."

The current financial situation underlies some of Bolcom and Morris's non-1908 choices as well. "We'll also be doing 'Down in the Depths' by Cole Porter and 'Too Good for the Average Man' by Rodgers and Hart because they're so timely—again." Both songs come from shows that premiered in 1936—seven years into the Great Depression—and both are sung from the point of the view of the extremely wealthy. The Porter number is delivered by a rich widow who complains, "When the only one you wanted wants another/What's the use of swank and cash in the bank galore?" while "Too Good" was a duet for a Russian ballet impresario and a wealthy patroness who assert "Sing 'la and huzzah' for the poor folks/As long as the poor folks are your folks."

On the other side of the fence are songs like Rome's anticonsumer lament "Nobody Makes a Pass at Me" from 1937's *Pins and Needles*, a revue commissioned by, of all people, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union—"I use Coca Cola and Marmola/Crisco, Lesco, and Mazola/Ex-Lax and Vapex/So why ain't I got sex?" "South America, Take It Away," from 1946, lampoons the Latin dance styles then sweeping America: "Take back your conga, ay!, your samba, ay!, your rumba, ay-yi-yi!/Why can't you send us, ay!, a less strenu-, ay!, -ous number, ay-yi-yi!"

As a bonus, Bolcom and Morris will perform six of Bill's "minicabs." Miniwhats? "Miniature cabaret songs," explains Morris, "half-minute-long songs which Bill's publisher says are like fortune cookies. Some are very funny, and all of them are only six or eight bars long. Plus we'll do his 'Wall Street Rag,' because it, too, is timely—again."

—James Leonard

5 FRIDAY *continued*

Shops and Main Street & State Street shopping areas. Free admission. 669–7112.

"Trunk Show": Heavenly Metal. *Dec. 5 & 13.* Displays of jewelry by **Sarah Stanton** (Dec. 5) and **Lisa Vetter** (Dec. 13). *6–10 p.m. (Dec. 5) & 10 a.m.–5 p.m. (Dec. 13), Heavenly Metal, 207 E. Ann. Free admission. 663–4247.*

First Friday Shabbat: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society. JCS students lead a secular Shabbat celebration that includes candle lighting, singing, and other Jewish rituals. Dinner features locally grown foods and products from local businesses. Children welcome. All invited. *6:30–9 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $10 (family, $25). Reservations required. 975–9872.*

U-M Women's Basketball vs. North Carolina State. *6:30 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (youths under 18, $1; U-M students with ID, free). 764–0247.*

Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing). All invited to join in song, chant, and circle dances in joyous affirmation of the unity of the world's spiritual traditions. *7–9 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. $5 requested donation. 332–7964.*

★**"Festive Friday Holiday Nights": Main Street Area Association.** *Every Fri. through Dec. 19.* Local entertainers stroll the sidewalks beneath trees twinkling with 100,000 Christmas lights, with many stores open late. Live entertainment TBA. Also, Santa's Mailbox is accepting letters (postage to North Pole courtesy of the MSAA) Nov. 21–Dec. 19 at 332 S. Ashley (in front of Red Shoes). *7–9 p.m., downtown area bounded by Main, Liberty, Washington, and Fourth Ave. Free. 668–7112.*

Ballroom Dance Party: Arts in Motion Dance Studio. Dancing to recorded waltzes, fox-trots, swing, and Latin dance music. Lessons for beginners. *7–9 p.m., Arts in Motion, 2841 Boardwalk. $5 per person. 222–6246.*

★**Food Sessions: Washtenaw Whole Foods Market.** *Dec. 5, 8, & 12.* Talks by Whole Foods staff. Today: Drew Willis and Matt Yost on **"Top 10 Wine and Cheese Pairings."** Also this month: Tonya Huffman on **"The Ins and Outs of Tea"** (Dec. 8) and Yost on **"Home Cheese Making"** (Dec. 12). *7 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration requested. 975–4500.*

★**Mark Webster Reading Series: U-M English Department.** Readings by U-M creative writing instructors and grad students. Today: prose by **Megan Tucker** and poetry by **Rasheeda Plenty.** *7 p.m., Michigan League Hussey Room. Free. 615–3710.*

"The Nutcracker": Youth Dance Theatre of Michigan. *Dec. 5–7.* Wendi DuBois directs this Chelsea-based troupe of young dancers in a production of Tchaikovsky's ballet. The Sat. & Sun. matinees are preceded at 1 p.m. by a **Sugar Plum Fairy tea** ($10 in advance only) featuring cast visits and photos, and refreshments. *7 p.m., Chelsea High School, 740 N. Freer, Chelsea. $18 (students and age 60 & over, $12) in advance and at the door. Groups of 10 or more, $10 each in advance only. 475–3070.*

"Coppelia": EMU Dance Program. EMU dance students perform Delibes's comic opera, the story of a mysterious doctor who makes a life-size dancing doll so lifelike that a village swain throws aside his true love for her. The score is performed live by the **EMU Symphony Orchestra.** An abridged version of this program is presented earlier today at 10 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. in 2 free 50-minute children's concerts (reservations required at 487–2448). *7 p.m., Pease*

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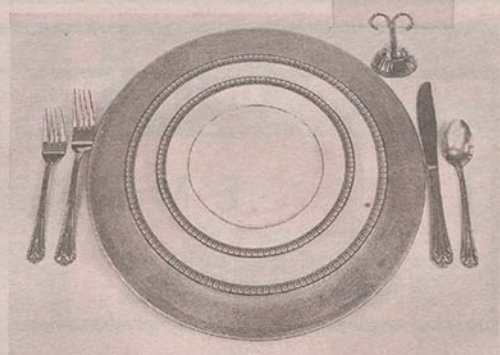
For many American families, someone will be missing from the holiday table this year.

In 2007, drunk driving caused almost 13,000 fatal crashes. One senseless death like this is one too many.



This year, hand over your keys and make it home safely.

A special message from Huron Valley Ambulance

This holiday season, we take time to remember HVA EMT Cheryl Kiefer, who was killed in the line of duty on January 26, 2008.

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5 FRIDAY *continued*

Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Tickets $10 (seniors & students, $8; children under 12, $6) in advance and at the door. 487–2282.

"The Snow Queen": EMU Theater Department. *Nov. 21–23 & 30 and Dec. 5 & 6.* EMU theater professor Wallace Bridges directs EMU students in Stuart Paterson and Savourna Stevenson's musical adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's tale of mystery, humor, and adventure. When the beautiful but sinister Snow Queen kidnaps her best friend and turns her heart to ice, a young girl embarks on a rescue journey that teaches her valuable lessons about friendship and perseverance. A family-oriented production for theatergoers age 8 & up. *7 p.m., Quirk Theater, Ford St. (off Lowell from Huron River Dr.), EMU campus, Ypsilanti. Tickets $15 (students, $12; kids age 12 & under, $6) in advance and at the door. 487–2282.*

"A Christmas Carol": Emergent Arts. See 4 Thursday. 7 p.m.

U-M Ice Hockey vs. MSU. *Nov. 30 & Dec. 1. 7:30 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. $12–$17. 764–0247.*

Winter Concert: U-M Compulsive Lyres. Performance by this U-M student a cappella ensemble. *7:30 p.m., East Hall, 530 Church. $7 (students, $5) in advance at lyres@umich.edu and at the door. compulsivelyres.com.*

31st Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. *Dec. 5 & 6.* Sparkling with medieval splendor, this elegantly elaborate pageant allegorizing Christ's victory over sin and death features a cast of more than 100 Concordia students, faculty, and staff. Originating in medieval England and celebrated for centuries at Cambridge and Oxford, the Boar's Head Festival combines religious pageantry and secular pomp, with musical narration, congregational singing, and a full orchestra. It offers vividly dressed Beefeaters, hunters, jesters, and other court characters, as well as traditional Christmas shepherds and magi. The peak of the festival is the presentation of a wild boar's head, a symbol of vanquished evil. This hugely popular event sells out in advance every year, so get your tickets early. *7:30 p.m., Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Tickets $8–$15 in advance at the Kreft Center Box Office and (if available) at the door. 995–4612.*

★Angell Hall Observatory Open House: U-M Student Astronomical Society. All invited to peer through the telescopes in the observatory and on the Angell Hall roof and to view shows in the planetarium. Also, Student Astronomy Society members give short presentations on a variety of astronomy topics. *8–10 p.m., 5th floor rooftop observatory, Angell Hall (from the large State St. entrance, take one of the elevators on the left to the 5th floor). Free. 764–3440.*

★Advanced Study Group: Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor. *Dec. 5 & 19.* All invited to join this ongoing study group to discuss Rudolf Steiner's book *Lectures on Karmic Relationships*, vol. 6. Familiarity with Steiner's basic ideas required. *8–9:30 p.m., 33 Ridgeway East, 1 block east of the Arb entrance on Geddes. Free. 662–6398.*

★Erik Santos & Kumotaro Mukai: U-M School of Music. *Dec. 5 & 6.* Collaborative performance by U-M music professor Santos, a composer-percussionist, and Japanese Butoh dancer Mukai, winner of the Dance Critics Society of Japan 2005 Rookie Award. Butoh is a highly expressionistic, kinetic movement form developed in the 1960s to explore and express human suffering. It was a deliberate break with Noh and Kabuki, classical traditions in which rigid stylizations are used to mask emotion. *8 p.m., U-M Duderstadt Center Media Center video studio, 2281 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

★Afro-Cuban Concert: U-M Residential College. U-M music professor Michael Gould directs RC Afro-Cuban drumming students. *8 p.m., Residential College auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647–4354.*

Winter Concert: U-M Harmonettes. This peppy all-female a cappella group performs original arrangements of oldies and pop numbers. Its repertoire includes Duffy's "Mercy," Michael Jackson's "The Way You Make Me Feel," Cyndi Lauper's "Time after Time," Regina Spektor's "Fidelity," and more. *8 p.m., Michigan Union Pendleton Room. $8 (students, $5; $1 discount for donated gloves, hat, or mittens). (414) 232–8956.*

"A Joint Holiday Choral Concert": Measure for Measure/U-M Men's Glee Club. Steven Lorenz directs the local men's chorus Measure for Measure and Paul Rardin directs the U-M Men's Glee Club in separate programs of Christmas songs. Both choruses come together for a performance of Biebl's *Ave Maria* and Wendell Whalum's arrangement of the traditional Nigerian Christmas song "Betelehemu." *8*

p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 2250 E. Stadium. $15 (seniors, students with ID, and kids age 11 & under; $10) in advance and at the door. 649–7664.

Fourth Wish: Kerrytown Concert House. An evening of acoustic jazz by this local ensemble of saxophonist Jon Margerum-Leys, pianist Tyler Driskill, bassist Eric Walters, and drummer Mike Morrison. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10 (students & seniors, $5). Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

Don White: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). This veteran singer-songwriter from Lynn, Massachusetts, writes sharp-witted songs about everyday life that blend pathos, humor, and biting satire, and his live shows feature a lot of impromptu storytelling and comedy. His fans include Christine Lavin and Livingston Taylor, and he's released 4 acclaimed CDs, including the recent *Live in Michigan*. A big hit in earlier Green Wood appearances. *8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $12 (kids age 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 665–8558.*

"America's Next Top Model: The Puppet Show": Dreamland Theater. The Dreamland Puppet Troupe presents a puppet show based on Cycle 2 (2004) of the popular reality TV show *America's Next Top Model*. *8 p.m., Dreamland, 26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. $7. 657–2337.*

"Dance and Related Arts Concert": U-M Dance Department. *Dec. 5 & 6.* U-M dance majors present an evening of multimedia collaborations with student and faculty composers, musicians, theatrical designers, sculptors, photographers, vocalists, and creative writers. *8 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio, 1310 North University Ct. $5 at the door only. 763–5460.*

"Ruddigore; or, The Witch's Curse": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Apartment 3A": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Geoffrey & Jeffrey": Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Pride and Prejudice": U-M Theatre Department. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Tom Simmons: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 4 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"Friday Night Swing": Ann Arbor Swing Dance Association. *Every Fri.* Swing dancing to prerecorded music. No partner needed. Bring hard-soled shoes. Preceded at 8 p.m. by beginning lessons. *8:45–11:45 p.m., Dakota Bldg., 1785 W. Stadium. $5 (includes lessons; students, $3). 972–9141, 417–9857.*

6 SATURDAY

Bird Hike: Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck leads a hike to look for birds and record their locations. Bring binoculars and a field guide. *8 a.m., park activity center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $2. Preregistration required. $4 vehicle entrance fee. 426–8211.*

Holiday Art and Craft Festival: Ann Arbor City Club. 65 crafters show and sell ceramics, textiles, artwork, nature crafts, photography, jewelry, and more. No strollers. *9 a.m.–4 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. $3 admission. 662–3279.*

Annual Children's Festival and Holiday Bazaar: Rudolf Steiner School. The entire school is transformed into a children's festival, with **puppet shows,** musical performances, a raffle, and more. An activity room features kids crafts, and a children-only gift room has goodies priced for wee budgets. Also, an **artisans market** with handmade crafts by 40 local artists and a toy room. Food available in **King Winter's Cafe** and the Gingerbread Tea Room. Preceded on Dec. 5 by an adults-only preview night (6:30–10 p.m.), with a silent auction, music, and refreshments. *9 a.m.–4 p.m., Rudolf Steiner School, 2775 Newport Rd. Free admission (nominal fee for raffle & cakewalk). 995–4141.*

Holiday Gift Bazaar: St. James' Episcopal Church. Show and sale of ornaments, quilts, jewelry, knitted items, and more. Also, a raffle. *9 a.m.–3 p.m., SJEC, 3279 Broad St., Dexter. Free admission. 426–8247.*

Holiday Bazaar: Dexter Senior Center. Show and sale of handmade crafts and the popular "Grandma's Attic." Also, raffles and a bake sale. *9 a.m.–3 p.m., Dexter Senior Center, 7720 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. Free admission. 426–8247.*

Holiday Bazaar: Dexter Area Girl Scouts. Show and sale of scout-made knitted hats, door draft stops, heating pads, baked goods and baking mix jars, and holiday decorations and ornaments. *9 a.m.–3 p.m., St. Andrew's United Church of Christ, 7610 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. Admission 1 can of food. 678–8726.*

Holiday Bazaar: Dexter Area Historical Society. Sale of handmade gift items and Christmas crafts, including baby blankets, baby bibs, hand-felted ornaments, dried apple rose ornaments, a depression-era inner tube cat, garden stepping stones, and more. Also, a raffle and a sale of homemade breads, cookies, and candies. Santa Claus is on hand from 9:30 a.m. to noon to visit with kids and pose for photos. Proceeds benefit the Dexter Historical Museum. *9 a.m.–3 p.m., Dexter Museum, 3443 Inverness at Fourth, Dexter. Free admission. 426–2519.*

"Holiday Greens": Ann Arbor Garden Club. Club members help participants make a take-home wreath. Followed by a potluck. *9 a.m.–noon, Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. $15 materials fee. 769–2015.*

★**"Dinosaur Discovery Day": U-M Exhibit Museum Discovery Day.** *See review, p. 47* This family-oriented dinosaur program includes a fossil dig, a dinosaur puppet show, a dinosaur craft, screening of dinosaur films, and other family-oriented demonstrations and activities. Prize drawing. Refreshments. *9 a.m.–5 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 764–0478.*

★**Winter Democratic Rides: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Sat.* 20-mile ride (or longer) at a pace and to a destination chosen by the assembled riders. *Note*: Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, change for a phone call, and snacks. *10 a.m. & 1 p.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 904–6431.*

"Sciencepalooza": Hands-On Museum. *Dec. 6 & 7.* A popular monthly exhibit in the concourse area with hands-on experiments and activities. This month's program: **"Science of Toys."** *10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Dec. 6) & noon–4 p.m. (Dec. 7), Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann. $8 (members & infants, free) regular admission. 995–5439.*

Annual Holiday Open House: Darwin's Studio. Show and sale of stained glass, antique slot machines, and more. Refreshments. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Chelsea Depot, 125 Jackson, Chelsea. Free admission. 475–0182.*

Annual Holiday Book Shop: Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library. *Dec. 6 & 7.* For holiday gift shoppers, a wide selection of used books that look new, along with children's books in mint condition and records, DVDs, and CDs. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., AADL lower level, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Wheelchair-accessible. Free admission. 302–7774.*

★**"Tile Extravaganza": Motawi Tileworks.** Hourly studio tours (11 a.m.–4 p.m.) and demonstrations of press-molding tile (noon & 2 p.m.), glazing (12:15 & 2:15 p.m.), and mounting and grouting tile (12:30 p.m.). Participants can also decorate a 4-by-4-inch tile (11 a.m.–4 p.m.) to be glazed and fired for later pickup or delivery ($5). Karim and Nawal Motawi are on hand to sign copies of Anne O'Donnell's new book *Motawi Tileworks: Contemporary Handcrafted Tiles in the Arts & Crafts Tradition*. Also, door prizes. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., 170 Enterprise Dr. (off Jackson Rd. east of Baker). Free. 213–0017.*

Holiday Sale: Ann Arbor Potters Guild. *Dec. 6 & 7.* A popular annual sale held in a heated tent outdoors. Some 40 local artists offer a large selection of functional and decorative ceramics, in porcelain and both regular and white stoneware clays. Also, a children's corner, with toys, jewelry, and other gifts priced for their budgets. Items go fast—arrive early for the best selection. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., Potters Guild, 201 Hill. Free admission. 663–4970.*

"Himalayan Bazaar in My Garage": Of Global Interest. *Dec. 6 & 20.* Show and sale of a range of Nepali gift items, gathered by local adventure tour company owner Heather O'Neal. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., 120 Eighth St. Free admission. 369–3107.*

"Christmas on the Farm and at Dewey School": Waterloo Area Farm Museum. This German immigrant family's pioneer homestead comes alive with the sights, sounds, and smells of a rural 1880s Michigan Christmas. Docent-guided tours of 2–story brick farmhouse. Free hot cider in the farm's spartan log cabin, and tours of the one-room Dewey School. Gift shop. Refreshments. *10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Dec. 6) & noon–4 p.m. (Dec. 7), Waterloo Area Farm Museum, 9998 Waterloo Rd. (left off Clear Lake Rd. from I-94 exit 153), Chelsea. $4 admission (seniors $3; children ages 5–17, $2; ages 4 & younger, free). (517) 851–7890.*

★**Christmas Party: Downtown Home & Garden.** Santa is on hand to talk to kids, give them a Christmas orange, and take their Christmas lists. Free roasted chestnuts, eggnog, cider, and while they last, smidgens of delicious smoked goose right from the store's Big Green Egg smoker. *10 a.m.–1 p.m., Downtown Home & Garden, 210 S. Ashley. Free. 662–8122.*

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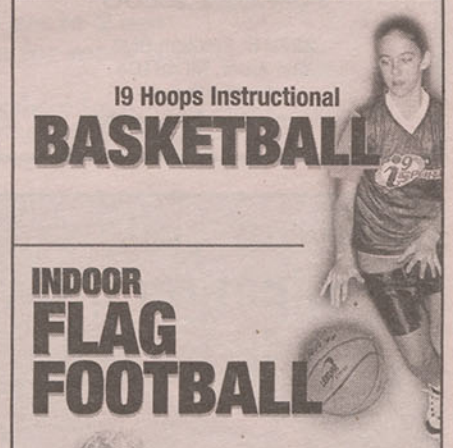

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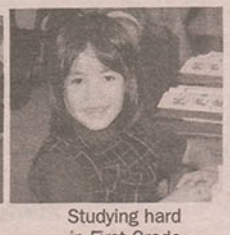
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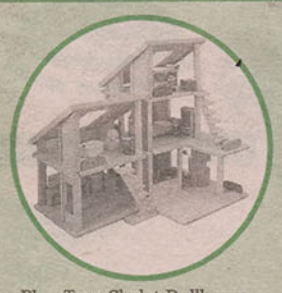
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6 SATURDAY *continued*

play this tactical miniatures board game. Bring a 1,750–point army. $150 in prizes. Proceeds benefit a local charity. *10 a.m., Get Your Game On, 709 Packard. Admission 5 cans of food. 786–3746.*

★**"Life Bliss Meditation": Life Bliss Foundation.** Life Bliss Foundation teacher Mohana Walambe introduces a simple but powerful meditation technique for stress reduction and healing. *10 a.m.–1 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library 3rd-floor FreeSpace, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Preregistration requested. (248) 635–4439.*

★**"The State of Local News": Gray Panthers of Huron Valley.** Talks by Ann Arbor Community TV Network program manager Lucy Visovatti and *Ann Arbor Chronicle* online daily newspaper publisher Mary Morgan. Discussion follows. Refreshments. Preceded at 9:45 a.m. by coffee & socializing. *10 a.m.–noon, U-M Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 973–5593.*

★**Remote-Controlled Car Racing: Washtenaw RC Raceway.** *Dec. 6 & 20.* One of the largest gatherings of RC racers in the country features off-road dirt-track racing for stock and modified model electric trucks and buggies. Spectators welcome. Food concessions. *10:30 a.m. (doors open at 8 a.m.)–midnight, Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free admission; $16 to race. (313) 565–2815.*

★**"Wonderful and Unusual Gifts": Nature's Expressions.** *Nov. 29 & 30 and Dec. 6 & 7.* Show and sale of crystalline mineral specimens, fossils, shells, mounted butterflies and insects, and more. Includes a complete fossil skeleton of a 9-foot, 100,000-year-old cave bear. *11 a.m.–5 p.m., 3443 Daleview Dr. (off N. Maple Rd. north of Huron River Dr.). Free admission. 994–3048.*

★**"Snowflakes Are Falling": Ann Arbor District Library.** All preschoolers through 3rd-graders invited to make paper snowflakes. *11 a.m.–noon, AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

★**Children's Storytime: Barnes & Noble.** *Every Sat.* Storytelling programs and occasional craft activities for kids. On Dec. 20, local children's writer **Sheila Pursglove** (see Cranbrook Whole Foods listing below) reads her new children's book ***The Mouse Ate the House.*** *11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★**Storytime: Nicola's Books.** *Every Sat.* Storytelling program for kids under age 7. *11 a.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

Ralph's World: The Ark. Family show by Ralph Covert, the former frontman of the Chicago indie rock band the Bad Examples. He has released 6 acclaimed CDs of energetic kiddie rock, including the recent *The Rhyming Circus,* which features the likes of "The Rhyming Circus" and "Folsom Daycare Blues." *11 a.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Today's Brass Quintet: Kerrytown Concert House Croissant Concert. A popular holiday tradition featuring this ensemble of area professional musicians that today performs holiday tunes. Quintet members are French hornist Alan Taplin, trombonist Brian Robson, tubaist Joseph DeMarsh, and trumpeters Jean Moorehead Libs and David Ammer. Croissants, coffee, and juice included. *11 a.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10, $15, & $25. Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. *Every Sat. & Sun. and Dec. 29 & 30.* Four different audiovisual planetarium shows. ***The Sky Tonight*** (11:30 a.m. Sat. only & 1:30 p.m. both weekend days & Dec. 29 & 30) is an exploration of the current night sky. ***Black Holes*** (12:30 p.m. Sat.) is an animated show that begins with the formation of the early Universe and the birth and death of stars and concludes with a simulated flight to a supermassive black hole lurking at the center of the Milky Way. ***Stars of the Pharaohs*** (2:30 p.m. both weekend days & Dec. 29 & 30) is an exploration of the use of science in ancient Egypt to tell time, make a workable calendar, and align huge buildings. ***The Zula Patrol*** (3:30 p.m. both weekend days & Dec. 29 & 30) is an animated exploration of weather, both terrestrial and interplanetary. *11:30 a.m. and 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. $4.75. 764–0478.*

Draw Doubles: Local 101 Disc Golf Club. *Every Sat.* All invited to play disc golf at one of Hudson Mills Metropark's 24–hole disc golf courses. Beginners are paired with advanced players to create parity. Prizes. Golf discs available free from the Hudson Mills Metropark office. *Noon, Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $5 per player; free for spectators. $4 vehicle entrance fee. 449–4300.*

★**"Gadgets Galore: What's New, What's Old, What's Helpful": Kitchen Port.** *Ann Arbor News* food writer Marge Biancke is on hand to discuss kitchen gadgets. *Noon–3 p.m., Kitchen Port, 283 Zeeb Rd. Free. 665–9188.*

Shadow Art Fair: Michigan Design Militia. Show and sale of glass jewelry, photographs, paintings, handmade bags and scarves, mixed-media artworks, clothing, greeting cards, and more, made by 40 local artists. Live entertainment TBA. *Noon–midnight, Corner Brewery, 720 Norris at Forest (west of River St. north of E. Cross), Ypsilanti. 2¢ admission. 516–1432.*

★**"Jazz Holiday Showcase": Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts.** Student jazz ensembles perform a family-friendly program TBA. *Noon–2 p.m., Firefly Club, 637 S. Main. Free, but donations accepted. 213–2000.*

"Super Science Shows": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Family Day. *Every Sat. & Sun.* Museum staff give family-friendly science demos. *1 & 3 p.m., Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann. $8 (members & infants, free) regular museum admission. 995–5439.*

★**"Kids Club Story Time and Activity": Cranbrook Whole Foods Market.** Michigan writer Sheila Pursglove reads ***The Mouse Ate the House,*** her new children's book about a mouse who makes his home in a gingerbread house under a Christmas tree. Also, an appearance by Merriweather Matthew Mouse. Signing. Followed by gingerbread cookie decorating. *1 p.m., Whole Foods, 990 W. Eisenhower Pkwy., Cranbrook Village shopping center. Free. 997–7507.*

★**Monsterpocalypse Open Play: Get Your Game On.** *Every Sat.* All invited to play this tactical miniatures board game. Also, demos of some of the store's board games. Followed at 5 p.m. by Warhammer/Warmachine open play. *1 p.m., Get Your Game On, 709 Packard. Free. 786–3746.*

★**German Family Christmas: Kempf House Center for Local History.** *Dec. 6, 7, 13, & 14.* This restored 19th-century Greek Revival home is decked out with a traditional tree and decorations and exhibits reflecting a typical early-20th-century German American celebration of Christmas. Christmas cookies. *1–4 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Free; donations welcome. 994–4898.*

★**Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Club.** *Every Sat.* All invited to practice their juggling skills. Beginners welcome. Indoor location TBA in case of inclement weather. *2–4 p.m., U-M Diag. Free. 761–1115.*

★**Dinosaur Tours: U-M Exhibit Museum.** *Every Sat. & Sun.* 30-minute docent-led tour of the museum's dinosaur exhibits. *2 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free, but limited to the first 15 people to sign up for each tour. 764–0478.*

★**Ultimate Frisbee: Ann Arbor Ultimate.** *Every Sat. (tentatively).* All invited to join a pickup game of this spirited team sport. The club also sponsors pickup games every Sunday (Mitchell Field, 10 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.). *Note:* Overly aggressive players are politely asked to leave. *3 p.m., Fuller Field. Free. info@a2ultimate.org.*

Kids Drum Circle: Oz's Music. All kids invited to join a drumming session hosted by Oz's owner Steve Osburn. Drums provided. *3–4 p.m., Oz's, 1920 Packard. $10. 662–8283.*

"The Snow Queen": EMU Theater Department. See 5 Friday. 3 p.m.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Duke. *3:30 p.m., Crisler Arena. $15 & $22. 764–0247.*

★**"Lead by Example: 50 Ways Great Leaders Inspire Results": Barnes & Noble.** Local leadership consultant **John Baldoni,** named one of the "30 Most Influential Leadership Gurus" for 2007 by leadershipgurus.net, signs copies of his new book. *3:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★**In Good Company African American Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to join a discussion of ***Wild Stars Seeking Midnight Suns,*** J. California Cooper's collection of short stories that explore the hopes of everyday people. *4 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★**Kids Open Stage: Oz's Music Environment.** Kids of all ages and all musical abilities are invited to play, sing, or just observe. *4–5 p.m., Oz's, 1920 Packard. Free; donations welcome. 662–8283.*

"Sing Along with Santa": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. This popular annual family concert features a carol sing-along led by former orchestra staff member Charley Sullivan as Santa. With bassist Erin Zurbuchen, pianist Lori Zupan, erhu player Xiaodong Wei, and an Ann Arbor Youth Chorale ensemble. Michigan Football Network radio personality Lucy Ann Lance emcees. Followed by cookies, apple cider, and photos with Santa. *4 p.m., Bethlehem Unit-*

ed Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets $12 (children 12 & under, $5; families, $30; patrons, $50) in advance at the AASO office (220 E. Huron suite 470) and a2so.com, and at the door. 994–4801.

★Early Music Ensemble: U-M School of Music. Edward Parmentier directs this student ensemble in songs by Byrd, Hassler, Monteverdi, and Gabrieli, and works by Bach, Couperin, and Marais. *4 p.m., U-M Music School Blanche Anderson Moore Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

★Jazz Combo: EMU Music Department. Mark Pappas directs this music-student ensemble in a program of jazz standards and contemporary works. *4 p.m., EMU Alexander Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

31st Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. See 5 Friday. 4 p.m.

"Winter Wonderland": 33rd Annual St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Holiday Ball. Lavishly decorated gala, with a traditional holiday theme. Cocktails and a gourmet dinner (8 p.m.), followed by dancing to music by Intrigue. Black tie. Proceeds benefit the new Patient Towers. *6:30 p.m., EMU Convocation Center, 799 Hewitt Rd. (just south of Rynearson Stadium), Ypsilanti. $1,250 per couple. Reservations required. 712–4040.*

12th Annual Ypsilanti Holiday Homes Tour: Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels. *Dec. 6 & 7.* Tour of 7 Ypsilanti homes lavishly decorated for Christmas. The Dec. 6 "candlelight" tour includes hors d'oeuvres. Proceeds benefit Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels. *7–10 p.m. (Dec. 6) & noon–4:30 p.m. (Dec. 7), various locations. Tickets $40 (both days) & $15 (Dec. 7 only) in advance, and $20 (Dec. 7 only) day of tour. 487–9669.*

★"Better Get It in Your Soul: What Liturgists Can Learn from Jazz": Shaman Drum Bookshop. U-M Canterbury House chaplain **Reid Hamilton** and U-M music professor and Canterbury House music director **Stephen Rush** discuss their new book. Also, Rush's free-jazz ensemble **Quartex** performs examples of the kind of music discussed in the book. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★Annual Fall Concert: U-M Gospel Chorale. Gospel music by this coed a cappella ensemble, plus dance by the Images of Praise dance team. Also, a performance by the Prophetic Interpreters mime team. *7 p.m., New Life Church, 1541 Washtenaw. Free admission; donations accepted. (313) 300–8057.*

★Youth Orchestras: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. The school's Junior String Orchestra, Sterling String Orchestra, and Youth Symphony Orchestra play "America the Beautiful" and other works TBA. *7 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free, but donations accepted. 213–2000.*

"The Nutcracker": Ypsilanti Area Dancers. *Dec. 6 & 7.* Heidi Vitso directs a company of dancers ages 6–18 in a production of Tchaikovsky's beloved Christmas ballet. *2 & 7 p.m., Ypsilanti High School Auditorium, 2095 Packard. Tickets $13 & $18 in advance at ypsilantiareadancers.com & the Dancer's Boutique (2414 E. Stadium Blvd.) and at the door. 528–9682.*

"A Christmas Carol": Emergent Arts. See 4 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"The Nutcracker": Youth Dance Theatre of Michigan. See 5 Friday. 2 & 7 p.m.

"12th Annual Evening of Sacred Song: A Seasonal Celebration of Peace, Community, and Spirit": Sacred Song. This ad hoc local vocal ensemble presents an evening of songs from numerous spiritual traditions worldwide. The concert features works performed with and without instrumental accompaniment. Also, sing-alongs. Sacred Song members are Yarrow Halstead, Laura Machida, Cassandra Compton-Montgomery, Dale Petty, Robin Wilson, Mary Wilson, LaRon Williams, Mary Anne Perrone, Barbara Stahler-Sholk, Don Allen, Dave SmilingSun, Tom Voiles, Gae Winn, Max and Sam Deschamps, and Edie Lewis. Proceeds benefit Arbor Hospice, the VA Ann Arbor Palliative Care Program, and Carpenter Elementary School. *7:30 p.m., Genesis of Ann Arbor, 2309 Packard. $5–$20 (kids under age 12, free) sliding scale at the door only. 761–7962.*

Dexter Twirlers Square Dance Club. *Dec. 6 & 20.* Glen Geer calls square dances for experienced dancers to recorded music. No partner necessary. Wear soft-soled shoes (not tennis shoes). *7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's United Church of Christ, 7610 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. $5. 433–0308.*

1st Saturday Contra: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Rosemary Caruso calls to music by Paul Winder, David Raffenaud, & Friends. No partner needed; all dances taught. Wear cool, casual clothes and flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. Also, a free open jam for string and other musicians, 3–6 p.m. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $9 (members, $8; students, $5). 769–1052.*

"53rd Annual Study Break Concert": U-M Friars. This self-styled "crack squad of supercrooners," an a cappella octet drawn from the Men's Glee Club, sings a college-themed parody of Barenaked Ladies' "If I Had a Million Dollars" as well as other parodies and oldies. The Friars also celebrate the release of their new CD, *Second or Third Best. 8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. $5 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & $6 at the door. 763–TKTS.*

"Furball Cabaret": Sh\aut\ Cabaret and Gallery. Cabaret show by local performers TBA and **Ken Foster,** the New Orleans-based author of *The Dogs Who Found Me*. Foster also signs copies of his book. Preceded at 3 p.m. by an art show and silent auction. Proceeds benefit the Humane Society. *8 p.m., Sh\aut\, 325 Braun Ct. $10 (students, $5). 663–0036.*

130th Annual "Messiah": University Choral Union (University Musical Society). *Dec. 6 & 7.* Jerry Blackstone directs the choral union, and members of the **Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra,** in Handel's beloved oratorio. The soloists, all established professionals with national or international reputations, are soprano **Mary Wilson,** mezzo-soprano **Claudia Huckle,** tenor **John Tessier,** and baritone **Joshua Hopkins.** The Choral Union *Messiah,* featuring a thunderous sing-along of the "Hallelujah" Chorus, has been an Ann Arbor tradition ever since organist (and U-M president) Henry Frieze led an impromptu community chorus in the spring of 1879, a performance that led the next winter to the formation of both the Choral Union and the UMS. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a talk by Blackstone (free to ticketholders) on the history of the *Messiah. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $10–$32 in advance at the Michigan League and ums.org, and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

"Swinging on a Star: Class of 1908": Kerrytown Concert House. *See review, p. 51.* Pianist (and Pulitzer Prize–winning composer) **Bill Bolcom** and mezzo-soprano **Joan Morris,** a local husband-and-wife duo internationally renowned for their interpretations of early American popular songs, perform cabaret songs by composers born in 1908 and premiere some of Bolcom's "minicabs" (short cabaret songs). The program includes Johnny Burke's "Swinging on a Star," Johnny Green's "I'm Yours," Harold Rome's "Wish You Were Here," and Leroy Anderson's "The Syncopated Clock." "Yes, [Morris] has that wonderful voice, clear as water; she has the diction that is as immaculate as it is pointed," says a *Boston Globe* reviewer, "but what makes her singing work is the way the clear stream of her voice throws back reflections of every gradation of human feeling; she comes at a song from within and thereby proves its worth. Bolcom's ingenuity in creating rhythmically lively and harmonically rich accompaniment seems to be limitless." *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15, $20, & $30. Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"Ruddigore; or, The Witch's Curse": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 4 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Dance and Related Arts Concert": U-M Dance Department. See 5 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Apartment 3A": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Geoffrey & Jeffrey": Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Pride and Prejudice": U-M Theatre Department. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Tom Simmons: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 4 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Singles Dance: Parents Without Partners. *Dec. 6 & 19.* All singles invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s to contemporary dance music played by DJ John Brown. Cash bar. Smoking allowed in designated areas. Preceded at 8 p.m. by free dance lessons. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. $8 (PWP members, $6). 433–1668.*

★"Milonga Picante": Michigan Argentine Tango Club. *Dec. 6 & 20.* Tango dancing to recorded music. *Note:* People not affiliated with the U-M must arrive before 9 p.m. *9 p.m.–1:30 a.m., Michigan League Anderson Room (Dec. 6) & Ballroom (Dec. 20). Free. 973–2338.*

"Serious about Salsa" Latin Dance Party: danceRevolution Dance Studio. *Dec. 6 & 20.* High-energy dance party with salsa, merengue, bachata, and cha-cha dancing to recorded music spun by a DJ. No partner necessary. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., danceRevolution, 1785 W. Stadium. $5. 945–8428.*

7 SUNDAY

★"A2Sunday Runners": Two Dogs Running. *Every Sun.* All invited to join informal runs of 5–7 miles along various scenic routes. *8:30 a.m., meet at Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, Kerrytown. Free. 657–0214.*

★Falun Gong. *Every Sun.* Local practitioners introduce this Chinese discipline, which consists of 5 exercises and meditation. *8:30–10:30 a.m., location TBA. Free. 834–4978.*

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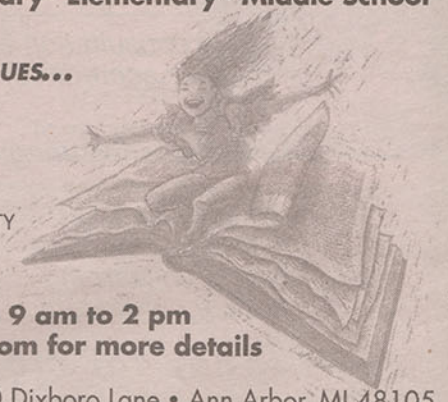

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7 SUNDAY *continued*

★"T'ai Chi Ch'uan at the Cube." *Every Sun.* Local t'ai chi instructor Chad Eisner leads a session of these slow meditative movements for beginning and advanced practitioners. *9 a.m., U-M Cube, between the Union and the SAB. Free. 761–5204.*

Christmas Bazaar: St. Aidan's Episcopal Church/ Northside Presbyterian Church. Show and sale of jewelry, African artifacts, beadwork, quilts, and more by local artists. Refreshments. *9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., St. Aidan's/Northside, 1679 Broadway at Baits Dr. Free admission. 663–1670.*

★Silent Vipassana Meditation: Deep Spring Center for Meditation and Spiritual Inquiry. *Every Sun.* Meditators of all levels invited for an hour of silent meditation focusing on the breath. While the practice stems from the earliest and purest Buddhist teachings, this form of meditation requires no religious beliefs. Followed by a 30-minute dharma discussion. *10–11:30 a.m., Deep Spring Center, 3003 Washtenaw, suite 2 (entrance on Glenwood, next to Arby's). Free, but donations accepted. 477–5848.*

★Introductory Dharma Talk: Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. *Every Sun.* Talks by **Gehlek Rimpoche,** an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor, or one of Gehlek's senior students. Today: Kathy Laritz discusses **"The Life of Buddha."** Also this month: Hartmut Sagolla on **"Patience Is the Best Protection"** (Dec. 14) and Aura Glaser on **"Rejoice"** (Dec. 21). *10–11 a.m., Jewel Heart Buddhist Center, 1129 Oak Valley Dr. (just south of Ann Arbor–Saline Rd.). Free, but donations accepted. 994–3387.*

★Winter Democratic Rides: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Sun.* The assembled riders choose their own pace, distance, and destination. *10 a.m. & 1 p.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 761–6253 (morning ride), 994–5908 (afternoon ride).*

"10th Annual Gift-Fest": Ann Arbor Artists' Collective. Sale of works by 25 local artists in a wide range of media, including clothing, ceramics, jewelry, painting, books, sculpture, and more. Refreshments. Also, raffle of artist-made Christmas ornaments. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). Free admission. 272–2901.*

Hanukkah Bazaar: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society. *Dec. 7 & 14.* Gifts, toys, Judaica, books, games, crafts, decorations, and more. *10 a.m.–noon, Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free admission. 975–9872.*

★Ultimate Frisbee: H.A.C. Ultimate. *Every Sun.* All invited to a very relaxed pickup game of this spirited team sport. *Note:* Overly competitive players are politely asked to leave. *10:15 a.m., Mitchell Field. Free. 846–9418.*

★Meditation: Karma Thegsum Choling. *Every Sun.* All invited to join a chanting meditation. *11 a.m.–noon (Dec. 7, 14, & 28) & 10–11:30 a.m. (Dec. 21), KTC, 614 Miner (off Miller). Free. 761–7495, 678–7549.*

★First Singles: First Presbyterian Church. *Every Sun.* A weekly program open to all single adults interested in contemporary Christian topics, new ideas, personal growth, and social and physical activities. Today: First Presbyterian member Polly Pan leads a discussion of an audiotaped lecture on **"The Centurions"** from the Teaching Company series Great Figures in the New Testament. Also this month: all invited to bring a dish to pass and a family Christmas picture to share at a **Christmas potluck** (Dec. 14), First Singles member Marcy Toon reviews Anne Perry's ***A Christmas Guest*** (Dec. 21), and all invited to play **games** (Dec. 28). Also, members meet for breakfast every Saturday at 10 a.m. at Cafe Marie in the Courtyard Shops (1759 Plymouth Rd.). *11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church Curtis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466, ext. 43.*

★First Presbyterian Church Adult Education. *Every Sun. except Dec. 28.* Today: First Presbyterian children's education and family ministries director Deborah MacVey discusses **"Children's Books for Christmas."** Also this month: First Presbyterian archivists Pearl and Larry Summers on **"182 Decembers at First Presbyterian Church"** (Dec. 14), and U-M music school choirs director Jerry Blackstone presents **"Advent Thoughts in Words and Music"** (Dec. 21), a program that includes recorded music, scripture readings, and singing of Advent carols. All invited. *11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church Lewis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466.*

★"Nikolaus Day": Ann Arbor–Tuebingen Sister City Club. A Celtic harpist plays German "winter" music while St. Nikolaus passes out German cookies. Also, hot spiced drinks. A portion of TeaHaus proceeds benefit the Sister City Club. *11 a.m.–6 p.m., TeaHaus, 204 N. 4th Ave. Free. 622–0460.*

Sunday Artisan Market. *Every Sun. except Dec. 28.* Show and sale of fine crafts, jewelry, soaps, furniture, fiber arts, and gift items. Also, live music TBA. *11 a.m.–4 p.m., Farmers' Market. Free admission. 665–2009.*

★Green Fair: U-M School of Art and Design/ School of Natural Resources and the Environment. All elementary school children and their parents invited to learn about recycling, alternative energy, buying local foods, and water conservation. *Noon–3 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. (248) 396–9990.*

"Country Christmas": Cobblestone Farm Association. Re-creation of mid-19th-century Christmases, with period Christmas decorations, cooking on the woodstove, and dulcimer music by the Village Strings. Also, a chance to visit with Father Christmas. Costumed interpreters provide tours of the restored 1844 Ticknor-Campbell farmhouse and its grounds, including a barnyard with live animals. Attendees can dip a candle to take home. Gift shop. *Noon–4 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard (next to Buhr Park). $3 (kids, $1.50; family, $7) suggested donation. 994–2928.*

Michigan Marching Band Annual Crisler Concert. A festive concert featuring highlights of the past season's pregame and halftime shows, plus U-M school songs. Also, performances by guest high school musicians. *12:30 p.m., Crisler Arena. Tickets $10 (kids age 11 & under, $3) in advance at mmb.music.umich.edu and at Revelli Hall, 350 E. Hoover, and at the door. 764–0582.*

Contact Improv. *Every Sun.* All invited to try this interactive, freeform dance style that involves contact with one or more partners. It can involve improvisational lifts and other experimentations with gravity. You might find yourself upside down, so dress appropriately for easy movement. No partner required; beginners welcome. (The 1st Sunday of each month begins with an hour of formal instruction.) Followed by discussion and socializing. *1–3 p.m., The Mind Body Spirit Academe, 1785 W. Stadium. $5–$10 sliding scale based on ability to pay. 604–4416.*

Tour: U-M Detroit Observatory. Docent-guided tours, about 30 minutes long, of the photographs and artifacts in this restored 19th-century observatory museum. Also, a chance to pull the rope and rotate the telescope dome. *1–4 p.m., U-M Detroit Observatory, 1398 E. Ann at Observatory. $5 suggested donation (U-M students, free). 763–2230.*

"Historic Homes for the Holiday": Saline Area Chamber of Commerce. Several homes are decorated for the holidays in Saline's historic district. Tour on your own or join a 2 p.m. tour led by Saline historian Bob Lane. *1–4 p.m., W. Henry St. & S. Ann Arbor St., Saline. Tickets $3 in advance in downtown Saline at Pineapple House, Spotted Dog Winery, and Maureen's Designs, and on the day of the tour. 368–8297.*

★"Chess Strategies and Tips": Ann Arbor District Library. Local chess experts Jennifer Skidmore and Ron Finegold offer some tips. Participants also play some chess to try out these new strategies. *1–4 p.m., 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–4200.*

★Children's Storytime: Liberty Borders. *Every Sun.* Borders staff reads stories for kids. *1 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★Gabriel Richard High School Madrigal Singers: Barnes & Noble. Anne Kolaczkowski directs this local high school choir in a program of traditional Christmas music. *1–3 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★33rd Annual Christmas Sing: Western Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor/Ann Arbor North Rotary Club/Notre Dame Club of Ann Arbor. More than 500 people usually attend this family-oriented event. Kiwanis members Jeff Crause, Charlie Phibbs, Mike Fedel, and Tony Fahmie lead the audience in a singalong of favorite Christmas carols. Organ accompanist is Andrew Rogers. Also, a visit from Santa and guest performances by the St. Francis Assisi Middle School Choir and by Miss Washtenaw County, who does a baton twirling routine. Emcee is Michigan Football Network radio personality Lucy Ann Lance. *1:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 668–8397.*

★"Trees and Shrubs of LeFurge Woods": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. All invited to join WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner for an expedition to look for ironwood, witch hazel, blue beech, American beech, and other trees and shrubs. *2–4 p.m., LeFurge Woods, Prospect Rd. at Vreeland (park in the new lot on Prospect, ¼ mile south of Vreeland), Superior Twp. Free. 971–6337.*

25th Annual Alternative Holiday Fair: Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. This popular holiday sale encourages less consumer-oriented ways of celebrating the holidays. It features handmade arts and crafts from Ten Thousand Villages, SERRV, and other local peace and justice organizations selling fairly traded goods and/or items that promote peace and justice. Also, a chance to participate in the highly ac-

Tuck & Patti

Fusion of souls

The duo of guitarist Tuck Andress and vocalist Patti Cathcart perform with in-ear monitors. "The result of these is that everything but Patti and me disappears while we are playing," says Tuck. They draw the listener into that closed circle, in which the energy is quiet but intense.

It's remarkable that they can sustain that intensity; Tuck and Patti got together in 1978, supposedly knowing within seconds of meeting that they had found a long-lasting musical partnership, one that soon turned into matrimony as well. To those of us ordinary mortals whose long-term relationships require a delicate balance between togetherness and distance, these full-time pairings seem nothing short of miraculous, but after thirty years the music of Tuck & Patti continues to deepen into a profound fusion of souls.

Tuck & Patti can cause trouble for the people who put music into categories, but *jazz* is the best word for what they do, even though the combination of vocalist and guitarist is a rare one in the genre. Tuck is capable of snap decisions and intricate details devised on the spur of the moment, and he can shift easily from steady rhythmic accompaniment in a contemporary pop song to a really dizzying variety of attack in music by the likes of Gershwin. Patti has an alto voice something like that of Detroit's Anita Baker, but quieter: it can either sail into a light upper register or broaden out into a rounded tone at important moments. The music on recordings never goes above conversation level, putting Tuck and Patti among the few American performers who occupy the lowest 10 percent of the dynamic spectrum.

The latest Tuck & Patti album, *I Remember You,* is devoted to Gershwin tunes and other classics of American song. They also perform newer standards like "I Will" and "Time after Time," and they have the conviction and originality to escape the slightest hint of triteness even in very familiar material. Occasional humorous songs, solo numbers by both Tuck and Patti, and offbeat experiments like an acoustic version of Jimi Hendrix's "Castles Made of Sand" provide variety. But the common denominator of most of the duo's songs is love, naturally enough, and if romance on a midwinter night is on your agenda, their concert will be a profitable stop. Tuck & Patti also perform quite a few of Patti's originals, lending the music a folkish flavor. "Patti writes and arranges; I am just the orchestra," Tuck says. He has the talent to deliver on that little boast.

Tuck & Patti perform on Tuesday, December 16, at the Ark (see Nightspots), a venue whose increasingly diverse range of bookings is setting it apart from other clubs around the country devoted to folk and acoustic music. This club is one of the few places around that can offer the deep, quiet focus this remarkable music deserves.

—James M. Manheim

claimed Heifer Project International by helping to pay for farm animals (some on hand and available for petting) for needy overseas farm families. Proceeds benefit local, national, and international peace and justice organizations. *2–6 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free admission. 663–1870.*

★**"Kerry Tales: Cradles and Candles with Mother Goose": Kerrytown Shops.** 30-minute family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and stories with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as "Mother Goose." *2 p.m., Hollander's, 407 N. Fifth Ave. (Kerrytown). Free. 769–3115.*

★**"9th Annual Tuba Christmas."** All invited to bring an instrument, a folding chair, and a music stand to join around 40 players in an outdoor performance of holiday carols "heard as never before," says an organizer, on tubas, euphoniums, sousaphones, and baritone horns. One of innumerable outdoor concerts held today across the nation and in Canada in memory of tuba legend William Bell. Registration and rehearsal at the U-M music school begins at 9:30 a.m. Music books available ($11). Dress warmly. *2–3 p.m., S. State at North University. Free (performers, $7). 395–9544.*

Hometown Holiday Benefit Concert: Saline Fiddlers ReStrung. This local touring teen fiddle ensemble plays traditional American fiddle songs, bluegrass, and high-energy American folk. Proceeds benefit Toys 4 Tots. Bring an unwrapped new toy to donate. *2 p.m., Saline High School Ellen Ewing Performing Arts Center, 1300 Campus Dr., Saline. $10. 994–2283.*

★**"Congolese Dance": U-M Dance Department.** Performance by an ensemble of U-M Dance students. *2 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), U-M Dance Bldg. Studio A, 1310 North University Ct. Free. 763–5460.*

130th Annual "Messiah": University Choral Union (University Musical Society). See 6 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Ruddigore; or, The Witch's Curse": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Apartment 3A": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

"Geoffrey & Jeffrey": Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Pride and Prejudice": U-M Theatre Department. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"A Christmas Carol": Emergent Arts. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"The Nutcracker": Youth Dance Theatre of Michigan. See 5 Friday. 2 p.m.

"The Nutcracker": Ypsilanti Area Dancers. See 6 Saturday. 3 p.m.

★**Ann Arbor–Motown Hash House Harriers.** *Every Sun. & occasional Sat.* The local chapter of an unorthodox running club for people who like to make a game of running. Each runner's task is to follow a trail designed to be confusing. The usual result is that the lead (i.e., fastest) runners run the longest distance, so that runners of varying abilities complete the course in nearly the same time. Each run includes at least one pit stop (with beer & pop hidden along the way) and is followed by a trip to a nearby restaurant. *3 p.m., location TBA. Free. Weekly locations available at a2h3.org.*

★**The Willis Patterson Our Own Thing Chorale.** This popular local choir is joined by the Ypsilanti Youth Orchestra in a program of Christmas music. *3 p.m., West Middle School gymnasium, 105 N. Mansfield, Ypsilanti. Free; donations accepted. 769–4437.*

★**"New York Minutes": Percussion Ensemble (U-M School of Music).** Joseph Gramley directs this music-student ensemble in 7 works by artists whose

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7 SUNDAY *continued*

work is influenced by New York City, including Lori Dobbins, Tan Dun, Julia Wolfe, Steve Reich, and others. *3 p.m., U-M Music School McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

"The Musicals of Jerry Herman": Chaverim B'Shirim. This local Jewish choir performs songs by the composer of *Hello Dolly, Mame, La Cage aux Folles,* and other popular musicals. Refreshments. *3 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $5 donation. 971–0990.*

★**"Why Is There Lemon in My Fruit Salad? How to Stay Sweet When Life Turns Sour": Barnes & Noble.** Local writer **Pamela Gossiaux** discusses her new self-help book. Signing. *3 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

Children's Puppet Shows: Dreamland Theater. *Dec. 7, 14, & 21.* The Dreamland Puppet Troupe presents several marionette, rod, and shadow puppet shows for kids. *3:30 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. $5 (kids age 3 & under, free). 657–2337.*

★**Pottery Videos: Yourist Pottery.** Screening of 2 New Mexican pottery videos, including ***Daughters of the Anasazi,*** a documentary about Acoma potter Lucy Lewis's use of ancient Native American pottery techniques, and ***Maria Martinez: Native American Pottery Maker of San Ildefonso.*** *4 p.m., Yourist Pottery & Design Studio, 1160 Broadway. Free. 662–4914.*

Community Drum Circle: Arts in Motion Dance Studio. All invited to join a group drumming session led by certified drum circle facilitator Don Allen. Bring your own drum, or use one of Arts in Motion's. *4–5:30 p.m., Arts in Motion, 2841 Boardwalk. $5. 222–6246.*

★**"Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols": St. Thomas Catholic Church.** Lucia Campbell directs the church choir in this traditional English service, in which scripture readings alternate with seasonal anthems and carols. Songs include "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "Once in Royal David's City," "Stille Nacht," "Gesu Bambino," "We Three Kings," "Creator of the Stars of Night," and "Joy to the World." Accompanist is organist Timothy Tikker. *4 p.m., St. Thomas Catholic Church, Kingsley at N. State. Free. 761–8606.*

20th Annual Winter Concert: Ann Arbor Youth Chorale. 2 ensembles of talented local youth singers perform spiritual and folk songs, works by Mozart and Praetorius, and the seasonal "Let It Snow." *4 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets $10 (students, seniors, & kids; $5) at the door only. 996–4404.*

★**Ann Arbor Morris Dancers.** *Every Sun.* All invited to try this boisterous, jingly English ceremonial dance based on the 15th-century Spanish *moresca.* Wear athletic shoes. *6–8 p.m., Gretchen's House barn, 1580 Dhu Varren Rd. Free. 747–8138.*

"A Circle of Drums": Drumwomyn. *Every Sun.* All women invited to gather for a drumming session. Bring your own drum. *7–8:30 p.m., WRAP Resource Center, 325 Braun Ct. $10. 913–9670.*

★**"American Visions": U-M Residential College Drama Concentration.** U-M drama lecturer Kate Mendeloff directs RC students in scenes from Marsha Norman's 1983 Pulitzer Prize–winning play ***'Night Mother*** and Tony Kushner's Pulitzer Prize–winning trilogy ***Angels in America.*** *'Night Mother* is a controversial drama about a divorced woman, living with her mother, who chooses suicide in an effort to take control of her own life. Set on the evening when the daughter reveals her intention to kill herself, the action explores the nature of love, the relationship between mother and daughter, the meaning of suicide, and the value of life. "Humor and pathos pop up as naturally as wildflowers or fences by the roadside," says critic John Simon. "There is a devastating psychological accuracy, and nothing seems contrived." Subtitled "a gay fantasia on national themes," *Angels in America* is an ambitious, sprawling, fantastic spectacle examining Reagan-era politics, religion, the AIDS plague, and the timeless questions of love, courage, and death. The drama centers on one HIV-positive man, his friends and loved ones, and the various presences who haunt him, including angelic messengers and the ghost of Ethel Rosenberg. *7:30 p.m., U-M Residential College Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647–4354.*

U-M Ballroom Dancers. *Dec. 7, 14, & 21.* Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including fox-trots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Preceded at 7 p.m. by beginning lessons and practice. *8–10 p.m., Michigan League Ballroom (Dec. 7) & Michigan Union Ballroom (Dec. 14 & 21). $3. 763–6984.*

★**Chamber Music Recital: U-M School of Music.** Music students perform works TBA. *8 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 2116 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

★**Chamber Choir and University Choir: EMU Music Department.** These 2 music-student ensembles present **"Adoration and Praise,"** a selection of fragments of the Mass representing a variety of cultures and styles, including excerpts from the Caribbean Mass, Missa Criolla, Missa Kenya, and the Gospel Mass. Also, gospel songs and spirituals. *8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**"Music Beyond": University Choir (U-M School of Music).** Paul Rardin conducts this music-student ensemble in Daniel Locklair's "Changing Perceptions," Dello Joio's "A Jubilant Song," Brahms's "Schaffe in mir Gott, ein rein Herz," Abbie Betinis's arrangement of "Long Time Trav'ling," George Allen's "Take My Hand, Precious Lord," and Robert Morris's arrangement of "Bound for Mount Zion." *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

8 MONDAY

★**Movie Matinee: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Dec. 8 & 22.* Screening of a film TBA. Lunch available ($2.50). *12:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**"The Secular Brain and Its Discontents: Neuroscience and Religion from the 17th Century to the Present": U-M International Institute Science, Technology, & Society Program.** Talk by U-M Germanic languages and literature visiting professor Pascal Grosse. *4–5:30 p.m., 1014 Tisch, 435 S. State. Free. 647–3766.*

★**The Barony of Cynnabar.** *Every Mon. except Dec. 1.* All invited to join members of this local chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism to work on re-creating different aspects of medieval culture, including combat, dancing, singing, clothing, and many other arts & crafts. *7 p.m., 1311 EECS, 1301 Beal, North Campus. Free. Information at cynnabar.org.*

★**"Tile-Making": Ann Arbor District Library.** Motawi Tileworks co-owners Karim and Nawal Motawi show teens in grades 6 & up and adults how to make their own impressed clay tiles. Tiles provided. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Show and Tell": Ann Arbor Area Civil War Round Table.** Club members show and briefly discuss various Civil War–related items, including diaries, photographs, weapons, uniforms, paintings, and more. Previous highlights have included a set of very rare engraved slave tags and a stirring performance of period songs. Also, a Christmas party. *7 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off Huron River Dr.). Free. 930–0617.*

★**"Alphabet of the Ocean: How Markings on Shells May Have Inspired Ancient Written Language": Ann Arbor District Library.** U-M English lecturer **Josie Kearns** talks about her research into the origins of the forms of ancient written languages and her new collection of poems, *Alphabet of the Ocean,* that was inspired by that research. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

★**EMU Jazz & Percussion Ensembles: EMU Music Department.** John Dorsey and Donald Babcock direct these 2 music-student ensembles in a program of upbeat jazz standards and contemporary works. *7:30 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**"Mad about Chamber Music": Kerrytown Concert House.** See 1 Monday. 8 p.m.

9 TUESDAY

★**Stewardship Network Stewards' Circle.** All invited to join a group discussion on **how to be ecofriendly.** *7:30–8:30 a.m., Bruegger's Bagels, 709 North University. Free. 996–3190.*

★**"AADL.org": Ann Arbor District Library.** *Dec. 9 & 10.* Hands-on introduction to less obvious features of the AADL website, including the advantages of using My Account for placing holds, how to navigate the research tabs, and how and why to tag items. *10 a.m., AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

"Building Genetic Medicine: Breast Cancer, Technology, and the Comparative Politics of Health Care": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Distinguished Lecture Series. Lecture by U-M public policy professor Shobita Parthasarathy, codirector of the U-M Science, Technology, and Public Policy Program. 5th in a series of 9 monthly lectures. *10:30–11:30 a.m., Best Western Executive Conference Center, 2900 Jackson Rd. $50 (members, $35)*

for the 9-lecture series. Memberships are $15 a year. Preregistration required. 998–9351.

★**"Holiday Party for Kids": Borders Express.** All kids invited for games, coloring, and other activities. *6–9 p.m., Borders, Briarwood. Free. 669–0785.*

★**Ypsilanti–Ann Arbor Area Robotics Club.** All invited to meet robotics hobbyists and check out and informally discuss their current gadgets and toys. *7 p.m., A2 Mech Shop, 240 Parkland Plaza, 179 Little Lake Dr. (off eastbound Jackson between Wagner & Zeeb). Free. 332–1000.*

"Steep Tea Tasting": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's tea expert Jess Piskor shows how to brew and offers taste samples of several fine teas. *7–8 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs), 422 Detroit St. $10. Space limited; preregistration required. 663–3400.*

"Erster Dinner": Zingerman's Roadhouse. Zingerman's Roadhouse chef Alex Young and Taylor Shellfish (Washington) marketing consultant **Jon Rowley,** dubbed "the Johnny Appleseed of ostreiculture" by the *New York Times,* host a 4-course dinner featuring oysters from all 3 coasts, and Rowley discusses the importance of place in their different flavors. *7 p.m., Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson Rd. $45. Beverages available a la carte. Space limited; reservations required. 663–FOOD.*

"The Big Guns": Vinology. Vinology staff host tastings of 12–15 cabernet sauvignons, some of which sell for $50/bottle. Hearty appetizers. *Time TBA, Vinology, 110 S. Main St. Cost TBA. Reservations required. 222–9841.*

★**Health Sessions: People's Food Co-op.** *Dec. 9 & 18.* Talks by local health practitioners. Today: chiropractor Diana Christoff Quinn discusses **"Heart Health."** Also this month: holistic health practitioner Linda Feldt discusses **"Ritual and Spiritual Use of Herbs"** (Dec. 18). *7–8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required. 994–4589.*

★**"The Many Festivals of Mexico": Ann Arbor District Library.** Slide-illustrated talk by Tia Stephanie Tours owner and cultural tour guide Stephanie Schneiderman, a Havana native who grew up in Mexico. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

★**Sierra Club Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss ***The Snoring Bird: My Family's Journey Through a Century of Biology,*** biologist Bernd Heinrich's memoir about his relationship with his naturalist father. *7:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 971–1157.*

★**Collegium Musicum: EMU Music Department.** Scott Elsholz directs this student early-music ensemble in Pergolesi's Magnificat, Johann Kaspar Kerll's alternatim plainchant setting of the Magnificat Primi Toni, Corelli's Christmas Concerto, and Bach's Cantata no. 10, "Meine Seele erhebt den Herrn." *7:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Chapel, 511 W. Forest, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

"The Great Russian Nutcracker": Moscow Ballet. This touring company of top Russian dancers presents its acclaimed storybook treatment of Tchaikovsky's beloved Christmas ballet. This production features costumes and sets based on Russian folk art and designed by Valentin Federov. Also, local ballet dancers and students fill out various minor roles as mice, snowflakes, angels, butterflies, and party guests. *7:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $25–$65 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666.*

★**University Symphony Orchestra and University Philharmonia Orchestra: U-M School of Music.** Christopher Kendall conducts this music-student ensemble in Mendelssohn's *Hebrides Overture,* Vaughan Williams's *Norfolk Rhapsody* and *The Running Set,* and Arnold's *Tam O'Shanter.* Kenneth Kiesler conducts the USO in Lutoslawski's Concerto for Orchestra. Preceded at 7:15 p.m. by a lecture by U-M student group Enharmonia. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

10 WEDNESDAY

"A Christmas Carol": Wild Swan Theater. *Dec. 10–14.* Hilary Cohen directs this award-winning local children's theater company in Jeff Duncan's musical adaptation of the Dickens Christmas classic about crabbed old Ebenezer Scrooge and his transformation after visits by 3 spirits on the night before Christmas. As with all Wild Swan productions, the performance is interpreted in American Sign Language. Audio description and backstage "touch" tours are available for blind audience members by prearrangement. The cast features Jeff Duncan, Sandy Ryder, Mike Morgan, and Carter Pair. *10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $12 (children & seniors, $8) in advance and at the door. 995–0530.*

★**"The World of the Roma: A Minority One and Many in the New Europe": U-M Center for European Studies.** Roundtable discussion with Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (Paris) history professor Jean Hebrard and U-M grad students Luciana Aenasoaie, Elana Resnick, and Heather Tidrick. *Noon, 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 647–2743.*

★**Group Drumming: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** All seniors invited to join music and health consultant Diane Baker for drumming and singing. Drums provided. *1:30–2:30 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★**"Holiday Gift Fair": Zingerman's Delicatessen.** Zingerman's staff display, discuss, and offer taste samples of some favorite food gifts, from classics to curiosities. *4–7 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs), 422 Detroit St. Free. 663–3354.*

★**Food Sessions: Cranbrook Whole Foods Market.** *Dec. 10 & 17.* Lecture-demos by Whole Foods staff. Today's topic: **"Traditional Coffee Cupping."** Also this month: **"Baking Ham"** (Dec. 17). *6 p.m., Whole Foods Lifestyle Center, Cranbrook Village shopping center, 990 W. Eisenhower Pkwy. Free. 997–7507.*

"Introduction to Cheese": Morgan & York. Local maitre de fromage Simone Jenkins explains how cheese is made and discusses how to select, store, and serve fine cheeses. Tastings. *6:30–8:30 p.m., Morgan & York, 1928 Packard. $35. Reservations required. 662–0798.*

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Notre Dame. *7 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (youths under 18, $1; U-M students with ID, free). 764–0247.*

★**"Drummunity!"** Lori Fithian, a local drummer and drum teacher, leads a drum circle. Instruments provided, or bring your own. Kids welcome. Preceded at 6:45 p.m. by a brief drum lesson. *7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, 114 S. Main. Free. 426–7818.*

"Scotch Whiskey Intensive": Eve Restaurant. Eve Restaurant staff member Ari Sussman discusses the history and production methods of Lowland, Speyside, Highland, and Islay Scotch whiskeys. Also, tastings. *7 p.m., Eve, Kerrytown. $50. Preregistration required. 222–0711.*

★**Fiction Readers Group: Barnes & Noble.** All invited to join a discussion of ***Consequences,*** Booker Prize winner Penelope Lively's historical novel about 3 generations of gutsy English women whose lives span the 20th century. Refreshments. *7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★**"Feasting on Books": Ann Arbor District Library.** U-M Flint English professor Thomas Foster, author of *How to Read Literature like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines,* discusses the role of dining, parties, and community in literature and other arts. *7–8 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

★**"Christmas Memories": Waters Place Borders.** Members of the Irish vocal ensemble **Anuna** sing classic holiday songs from their new CD. *7 p.m., Borders, 3140 Lohr Rd. Free. 997–8884.*

★**"Annual Potluck and Members Slide Show": Wild Ones.** Members give short slide-illustrated talks about their adventures with native plants. Also, potluck (bring a dish to pass and your own table service). *7:45 p.m., 125 U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1600 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 662–9997.*

"Apartment 3A": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

11 THURSDAY

★**"Teaching Adults & Loving It!": Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild.** Talk by Marshall, Michigan, pianist Ramona Kime. *10 a.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 665–5346.*

"A Christmas Carol": Wild Swan Theater. See 10 Wednesday. 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

★**International Neighbors.** All area women invited to join members for the **50th Anniversary Celebration** of this club organized to welcome women from other countries during their stays in Ann Arbor. Nursery care provided for preschoolers. Refreshments. *1–2:30 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church social hall, 1500 Scio Church Rd. Free. 663–3989.*

"Christmas Ikebana": Ikebana International Chapter 183. Ikebana artist Anne Morrison leads a session of ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arrangement. Call for instructions on equipment to bring. *1 p.m., University Commons, 817 Asa Gray Dr. (off Huron Pkwy.). $10 (members, $5) materials fee. Reservations requested. 761–6836.*

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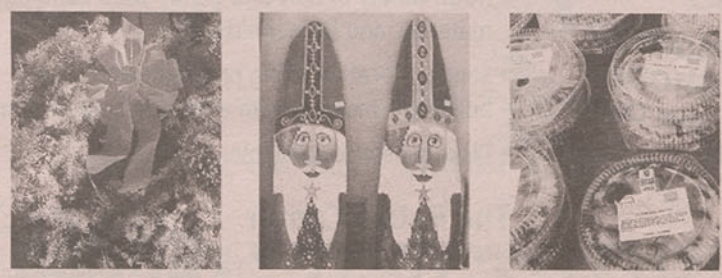

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11 THURSDAY *continued*

★**"Access Soapbox": Ann Arbor Community Television Network.** A chance to express your views, discuss your activities, or announce upcoming events on the local public access station (cable channel 17). Participants are free to talk about anything they wish within CTN guidelines: no direct solicitation of funds, no lottery information, and no material that is obscene, defamatory, invasive of personal privacy, or infringing on copyrights or trademarks. Limited to 5 minutes, each segment features 1 or 2 speakers (with no more than 2 graphics) who talk directly to the camera. Production crew provided by CTN. *Access Soapbox* shows are aired daily for 1 week, beginning on Sunday. *3–6 p.m., CTN studio, 2805 South Industrial, suite 200. Free. Reservations required. 769–7422, ext. 1504.*

★**"Meet the Breges": Barnes & Noble.** A chance to meet the husband-and-wife team of children's book writer Karen Bell-Brege and illustrator Darrin Brege, who shows kids how to draw gremlins and other creepy critters. *6 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

"Holiday Specialties": Arbor Brewing Company Beer Tasting. A chance to sample and learn about some 2 dozen different spiced beers, old ales, meads, and other holiday favorites. Also, a drawing for beer-related prizes. The price of admission includes unlimited beer sampling and a German appetizer buffet. *7–9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. Tickets $25 in advance and (if available) at the door. 213–1393.*

★**"War As They Knew It: Woody Hayes, Bo Schembechler, and America in a Time of Unrest": Waters Place Borders.** *Detroit Free Press* sportswriter **Michael Rosenberg** is on hand to sign copies of his history of the Ohio State and U-M football rivalry in the 70s. *7 p.m., Borders, 3140 Lohr Rd. Free. 997–8884.*

★**Christmas Concert: Gabriel Richard High School.** The school madrigals choir and concert band perform sacred and secular Christmas music. *7 p.m., Gabriel Richard High School, 4333 Whitehall Dr. (north off Plymouth just east of US-23). Free. 662–0496.*

"Poetry Night in Ann Arbor VIII": Neutral Zone. Poetry readings by renowned New York poet **Marty McConnell,** Old Dominion University poetry professor **Tim Seibles,** 2003 Ann Arbor Youth Poetry Slam champ **Adam "Paco" Hanlon,** and teen poets from **Ann Arbor Wordworks** and the **VOLUME Poetry Project.** *7 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Tickets $10 (students, $5) in advance; $12 (students, $7) at the door. 223–7443.*

★**"Introduction to Dzanc Books."** A chance to learn about this local nonprofit dedicated to publishing and promoting literary fiction is highlighted by a reading by **Thomas Lynch,** an internationally acclaimed poet and essayist who works as a funeral director in his hometown of Milford. Lynch is known for muscular, vigorously figured lyrical poems on personal and mythological themes that are sometimes tender and elegiac but often very funny or harrowingly bitter, or both. Tonight he reads new poems from the as yet unpublished collection *Walking Papers,* along with bits and pieces from his prose collections. The program also includes a Dzanc Books writer-in-residence and the teacher of the class where he is working. Information available about Dzanc Books. *7 p.m., Greenhills School, 850 Greenhills Dr. (off Earhart). Free; donations accepted. 756–5701.*

"A Christmas Carol": Emergent Arts. See 4 Thursday. 7 p.m.

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. *Dec. 11–13, 19, & 20.* This Ann Arbor–based program features 46 of the best 16- and 17-year-old American ice hockey players under the guidance of U.S. National coach Jeff Jackson. The program fields 2 teams—the Under-17 Team and the Under-18 Team—that play full schedules, September-March, against teams from the top American junior leagues (players ages 18–21), American college teams, and comparable European national teams. Today: **Team USA Under-18 vs. SUNY-Fredonia.** *7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. $6 (seniors, students, & children, $6; kids under 5, free). 327–9251.*

★**History of Books & Printing Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** All invited to join a discussion of ***English Emblem Books,*** Rosemary Freeman's study of these illustrated books that were popular in Europe in the 16th and 17th centuries. Refreshments. *7:30–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669–0451.*

★**Winter Orchestra Concert: Pioneer High School.** Jonathan Glawe and Paul Bailey direct the Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, and Philharmonia in a program highlighted by works by Hindemith, Bartok, Tchaikovsky, and Mendelssohn. *7:30 p.m., Pioneer High School Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium Blvd. at Main. Free. 994–2120.*

★**"Happy Holidays": Ypsilanti Community Band & Ypsilanti Community Choir.** Jerry Robbins directs this 70-member adult band in a program of Christmas music that includes Gabrieli's Sonata Pian' e Forte, the Finale to Saint-Saens's *Organ Symphony,* Sousa's "Stars and Stripes for Christmas," "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch," and more. The program concludes with a joint performance of the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's *Messiah. 7:30 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 905–5453.*

★**"Henry IV, Part 1": Greenhills School.** *Dec. 11 & 12.* Benjamin Cohen directs seniors in Shakespeare's history play about King Henry IV of England. Part 1 depicts the king's successful quashing of a rebellion against his reign and the young prince's metamorphosis from wayward partier to regal warrior. *7:30 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. (off Earhart). Free. 769–4010.*

Boe, Requiro, & Harding: Kerrytown Concert House. This local trio of violinist Stephen Boe, cellist David Requiro, and pianist Christopher Harding performs Beethoven's Trio for Piano, Violin, and Cello in C Minor and Brahms's Trio for Piano, Violin, and Cello in C Major. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"Born Yesterday": P.T.D. Productions. *Dec. 11–14 & 18–20.* Bob Wittersheim directs Garson Kanin's 1946 comedy about a smoothie who arrives in Washington, D.C., shortly after WW II seeking to grease the political skids so he can set up a moneymaking scheme. When his girlfriend's lack of social graces threatens to hold him back, he hires a writer to educate her on high-society manners, with unexpected results. *8 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets $16 (students & seniors, $12; Thurs., pay what you can) in advance and at the door. 483–7345.*

"Apartment 3A": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Geoffrey & Jeffrey": Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Jimmy Pardo: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Dec. 11–13.* A frequent guest on late-night TV, this West Coast comic is known for his engaging personality, expressive face, improv skills, playfully challenging sparring with his audience, and hilarious railings on all things moronic, including himself. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking shows. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $9 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $11 (Thurs.) & $14 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

12 FRIDAY

Scandinavian Christmas Celebration: Ann Arbor Scandinavian Club. This family-oriented party features folk singing, a Lucia train (a Swedish children's pageant), and other activities. Santa Claus is on hand. Bring a dish to share for a potluck. Smorgasbord with glogg (a spiced seasonal fruit-and-wine beverage). Open to anyone interested in Scandinavian culture. *6–8:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. $5 (children, $3). Johannae@umich.edu.*

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. See 11 Thursday. Today: **Team USA Under-17 vs. Mahoning Valley** (Boardman, Ohio) Phantoms of the North American Hockey League. 7 p.m.

★**"Tea Tasting": Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers.** All invited to sample premium teas from China and Taiwan. *7–8 p.m., Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers Studio B, 2007 S. State. Free; donations accepted. 945–8602.*

★**Crazy Wisdom Reading Circle: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** All invited to discuss Marc Gerstein's ***Flirting with Disaster: Why Accidents Are Rarely Accidental.*** *7–9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. *Dec. 12 & 13 (different locations).* Boychoir founder Tom Strode directs this local ensemble of boys ages 9–17 in its 22nd annual Christmas concert. The program opens with the processional "Once in royal David's city," with the 1st verse sung by a solo boy, and concludes with John Gardner's "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day." The program also includes a variety of carols each featuring a solo part showcasing some of the choir's talented boy sopranos, including the Welsh lullaby "Suo Gan," the folk carol "I wonder as I wander," and an exquisite setting of the lovely traditional "Coventry Carol." Also the "Carol of the Bells," John Rutter's sprightly "Donkey Carol," and a stirring rendition of the 16th-century carol "Personent hodie." The Boychoir's Preparatory Choir

Apartment 3A

A polar bear named desire

Jeff Daniels is author of about a dozen plays, most of which have been produced at his Purple Rose Theatre. And if he ever turns up on one of those "This I Believe" spots on NPR, I think I know what he'll say: he believes in love. But his plays aren't about the kind that your mom and the eHarmony guy are always pushing—safe, companionable love that grows steadily out of matched goals and personality traits. He's interested in the other love—powerful, inexplicable passion based on the deep, magical voodoo between the sexes.

Feverish, hormonal love and the stagecraft that goes with it seem to be the theme this year at Purple Rose. The season kicks off with *Apartment 3A,* a remounted production of the 1996 Daniels play. It runs until Christmas; then January brings Tennessee Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire*. One comedy, one tragedy, both are stories of fragile, delusional women and the men who tear their clothes off them, more or less right onstage. (It's a little harder to tell if the third and fourth plays in the Rose's season will follow this trajectory since they're world premieres and unknown quantities, but their early blurbs suggest that they too explore the love-lust boundary.)

Streetcar takes a famously jaundiced view of women who trust in the kindness of strangers, especially women who are down on their luck. *Apartment 3A,* on the other hand, finds wonder and redemption in the very forces that suck the life out of *Streetcar*'s Blanche and Stella. At the opening of *Apartment 3A,* Annie, a public-television producer, has just rented the apartment of the play's title to slit her wrists in. A few days later, as the play ends, she has fallen in love twice and been splendidly ravished onstage by someone pretending to be a polar bear. She's none the worse for it. In fact, she drinks in these events as if they were a marvelous new health tonic, and skips off to a new, rejuvenated life.

Some unimportant parts of *Apartment 3A*'s script have become subtly dated in its twelve-year sleep—"then and now" is the program's pert dodge from committing to one time or another. The costumer sidestepped the issue too, choosing to date the play in some mythical era in which public-TV employees wore five-inch candy-apple-red heels to work. But eventually the characters bump into anachronisms. Annie seems more or less contemporary until she has a madly sarcastic on-camera breakdown while shilling for her TV station, a much-stolen plot device from the 1976 movie *Network* that must have seemed tired even ten years ago and now seems farcical. Another piece of the script has Annie darkly ruminating on terrorist threats, and it turns out she means Oklahoma City.

Those musty oddities are unrelated to *Apartment 3A*'s real story. Daniels's subject is sex, seduction, and delusion, a grand trio in his scripts. It's a well-chosen appetizer for Tennessee Williams's more baleful treatment of the same.

Apartment 3A continues its run through Saturday, December 20.

—Sally Mitani

for boys ages 7–10 also performs the "Coventry Carol," as well as an energetic rendition of "Masters in This Hall." Audience sing-alongs of "Hark! The herald angels sing" and "O come, all ye faithful" are kicked off with a soaring Boychoir descant verse. The Boychoir Christmas CD is on sale. This popular annual concert usually draws a full house, so get your tickets in advance. *7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 300 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. Tickets $15 (students & seniors, $10; youths 17 & under, $5) in advance at aaboychoir.org and at the door. 663–5377.*

"A Christmas Carol": Emergent Arts. See 4 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"Funky Friday": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. *Dec. 12 & 26.* Public skating under mirrored balls to themed music. Also, costume contests. Today: **"Celebrity Skate."** Dress as your favorite celebrity and skate to pop music. Also this month: **"Ugly Sweater Holiday Skate"** (Dec. 26). Wear an ugly holiday sweater and skate to holiday classics. *7:15–8:45 p.m., Buhr Park Ice Rink, 2751 Packard. $6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, $5). Skate rentals ($3) available. 971–3228.*

★Maize 'n' Blue Intrasquad: U-M Women's Gymnastics. The U-M women's gymnastics team, which finished 5th in the NCAA championships last year, prepares for the 2008–2009 season with an intrasquad meet. *7:30 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. Free. 764–0247.*

Holiday Show: Saline Varsity Blues. *Dec. 12 & 13.* This 100-member chorus of singers ages 7–18 presents a program of solo, duo, and small-group vocal performances that include new and traditional holiday songs. *7:30 p.m., Saline Middle School auditorium, 7190 N. Maple, Saline. Cost TBA. 944–3162.*

Christmas Concert: Women's Chamber Chorus. David Perample directs this independent 30-member local women's chorus in a concert of holiday music. Piano accompanist is Leslie Austin. *7:30 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Donations accepted. (586) 505–1155.*

"Reduce, Reuse, Rock Out": Groove (U-M University Activities Center). This U-M student percussion and dance ensemble performs high-energy percussion using traditional and nontraditional instruments (trash cans, propane tanks, toothbrushes, and more). *7:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $7 (students, $5) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and at the door. 763–TKTS.*

"Oliver Twist": Young Actors Guild. *Dec. 12–14.* Sue Roe directs Robert Thomas's drama, a faithful adaptation of Dickens's well-loved tale about an orphan who falls in with a gang of pickpockets in 19th-century London. *7:30 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater. $15 (kids age 11 & under, $10). 913–9800.*

"A Christmas Carol": Wild Swan Theater. See 10 Wednesday. 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m., & 7:30 p.m.

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★**"Henry IV, Part 1": Greenhills School.** See 11 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

★**Concordia Jazz Ensemble: Concordia University.** Sean Dobbins directs this student ensemble in a jazz program ranging from funk to blues to swing. *8 p.m., Concordia University Kreft Center Black Box Theater, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Free. 995–7300.*

Katie Geddes & Friends: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). An evening of acoustic music hosted by Katie Geddes, a local folksinger who sings in a clear, strong voice. The lineup: **Matt Watroba's Jukebox Folk Quartet** is an acoustic quartet led by Detroit folksinger-guitarist Watroba (with Geddes, multi-instrumental string player David Mosher, and bassist Bud Michael) that plays classic country songs by everyone from the Louvin Brothers and the Delmore Brothers to Hank Williams and Roger Miller. **David Mosher,** who is also a singer-songwriter, also performs a set on his own. **All about Eve** (Katie Geddes, Deb Wood, and Debra Gerber) is a vocal trio that specializes in close-harmony pop, folk, and gospel tunes, some performed a cappella and some accompanied on guitar or piano. *8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $15 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 662–4536, 665–8558.*

"Apartment 3A": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Geoffrey & Jeffrey": Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Born Yesterday": P.T.D. Productions. See 11 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Jimmy Pardo: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 11 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"3rd Annual Dyke the Halls": \aut\ Bar. All lesbians and their friends invited for an outdoor dance and holiday celebration. *9 p.m.–2 a.m., Braun Ct. Cost TBA. 663–0036.*

13 SATURDAY

★**"End of Autumn Bird Walk": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike to look for birds. *9–11 a.m., Rolling Hills County Park, 7660 Stony Creek Rd. (between Merritt & Bemis, east of Carpenter; meet near the lodge), Ypsilanti Twp. Free. 971–6337.*

★**Ecosystem Restoration Workday: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum.** *Dec. 13 & 20 (different locations).* All invited to help Matthaei staff members remove invasive plants and prepare new planting sites. Dress for outdoor work. Snacks and tools provided, or bring your own. *9 a.m.–noon, meet at the Arb Reader Center (Dec. 13), 1610 Washington Hts., & Matthaei (Dec. 20), 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. Registration requested. 647–8528.*

Huron Gun Collectors. *Dec. 13 & 14.* Some 100 dealers and collectors offer guns, knives, ammunition, and other hunting equipment, including antiques and collectibles. Concessions. *9 a.m.–4 p.m. (Dec. 13) & 9 a.m.–3 p.m. (Dec. 14), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., Saline. Admission $4. (517) 605–0624.*

Hanukkah Bazaar: Temple Beth Emeth. *Dec. 13 & 14.* Show and sale of menorahs, candles, dreidels, gift wrap, gelt, cards, toys, and a variety of Judaica. *9 a.m.–2 p.m. (Dec. 13) & 3–7 p.m. (Dec. 14), TBE, 2309 Packard. Free admission. 665–4744.*

Handcraft Sale: Sales Exchange Refugee Rehabilitation Volunteers. *Dec. 13 & 14.* A wide variety of handcrafted items by Third World artisans. SERRV is an ecumenical nonprofit marketing organization designed to provide a major alternative sales outlet for artisans in economically developing areas of the world. *9 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church (back entrance), 1501 W. Liberty. Free admission. Wheelchair-accessible. 663–0362.*

"15th Annual Cookie Walk": First United Methodist Church. A bazaar featuring hundreds of peanut blossoms, Russian tea cakes, snickerdoodles, macaroons, festively decorated sugar cookies, and lots more. Select your own or prepackaged sets. Proceeds benefit the church's mission work. *9–11 a.m. or until sold out, FUMC, 120 S. State at Huron. Free admission. 662–4536.*

21st Annual Bake Sale: St. Vladimir Orthodox Church. Big sale of ethnic pastries, Christmas cookies, baklava, spinach pie, breads. Also, sale of religious items and Russian gifts. *9 a.m.–1 p.m., St. Vladimir, 9900 Jackson Rd. (2 miles west of Baker). Dexter. Free admission. 769–2686.*

"4th Annual Cookie Walk": St. James' Episcopal Church. Show and sale of a variety of cookies to buy by the pound. *10 a.m., St. James' Episcopal Church,*

3279 Broad Street, Dexter. Free admission. 426–8247.

"1st Annual Christmas Bazaar": Ypsilanti Community Church. Craft vendors, raffles, a silent auction, caroling by the Ypsilanti High School Gospel Choir, a chili cook-off, and more. Also, a children's area ($3) with crafts and games. *10 a.m.–6 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg., 4800 Huron River Dr. Admission $2 (kids age 12 & under, free). 483–5880.*

★**Materials Recovery Facility Monthly Open House: Ann Arbor Solid Waste Department.** Guided tours of the city's recycling and trash disposal center. This month's special activities include a chance to make a colorful sheet of recycled paper using torn paper, water, and everyday household supplies. Also, display of "tree-free" papers. *10 a.m.–noon, Materials Recovery Facility, 4120 Platt Rd. Free. 994–2807.*

"Saturday Fling": Leslie Science and Nature Center. A day of winter fun for kids in grades K–5, including (depending on the weather) sledding, building shelters, cooking marshmallows on the fire, and games. Pizza lunch. Dress for the weather. *10 a.m.–2 p.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $27. 997–1553.*

Ann Arbor Eclectic Artists Open House and Sale. Show and sale of clothing, ceramics, photographs, and jewelry by 4 local artists. Refreshments. *11 a.m.–4 p.m., 505 Lakeview Ave. (off Liberty east of Wagner). Free admission. 663–7114, 741–4441.*

★**"Home for the Holidays": Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce.** Roaming ice sculptors around town. Today's activities begin with **breakfast with Santa** (8:30–10:30 a.m.). Santa is also at the downtown gazebo (11 a.m.–4 p.m.), and his double hosts lunch at The Original Alpha Coney Island (11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.). At 5:30 p.m., the **Fred Schmid Memorial Holiday Light Parade,** with all floats in lights. The parade is preceded at 4 p.m. by the **5K Holiday Hustle** ($20), a competitive 5-km run with awards for the top 3 finishers in various age categories, with registration available at dexterholiday.com. *Note:* The festival kicks off at 7 p.m. on December 5 with a **tree lighting ceremony** and **carol singing** by choirs from Peace Lutheran and Dexter United Methodist churches. *11 a.m.–6 p.m., gazebo downtown, near Monument Park, Dexter. Free admission. 426–0887.*

★**"Trains in Toyland": Washtenaw County Historical Society.** *Every Sat. & Sun. through Jan. 25.* Ann Arbor Model Train Club members answer questions and demonstrate running and building model trains. Also, a clown does magic tricks (Dec. 14). *Noon–4 p.m., Museum on Main, 500 N. Main. Free. 662–9092.*

Holiday Art Studio Sale. *Dec. 13 & 14.* Handmade books, blown glass, pottery, digital collage, and gemstone jewelry by 6 area artists. *Noon–5 p.m., 623 & 627 Gott St. (off Miller). Free admission. 327–3727.*

"Christmas at the Rentschler Farm": Rentschler Farm Museum (Saline Area Historical Society). *Dec. 13 & 14.* A re-creation of a Depression-era Christmas at this century-old sheep farm, now a farm museum currently festooned in period holiday decorations. Docents in each farmhouse room discuss period furnishings and holiday preparations. Nibbles, and a gift shop. *Noon–5 p.m. (Dec. 13) & 1–4 p.m. (Dec. 14), Rentschler Farm, 1265 E. Michigan, Saline. Donation. 769–2219.*

★**"Christmas Through a Child's Eyes: True Stories That Capture the Wonder of Christmas": Nicola's Books.** College of DuPage (Glen Ellyn, Illinois) English professor **Helen Szymanski** discusses her collection of stories written by adults remembering their favorite Christmases. Signing. *1 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

"Afro-Brazilian Dancing": Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers. All invited to try a variety of Afro-Brazilian dance styles. *1–2 p.m., Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Center, 2007 S. State. $15. 945–8602.*

★**Classical Bells: Ann Arbor District Library.** Darlene Ebersole directs this acclaimed Detroit-area handbell ensemble whose varied repertoire includes classical, inspirational, seasonal, popular, and even ragtime and swing tunes. *1–2 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

"Beatrix Potter's 'The Tailor of Gloucester'": Theatre IV (Michigan Theater Foundation Not Just for Kids Series). This renowned touring children's theater company performs its adaptation of Beatrix Potter's holiday classic, the story of a poor tailor whose cat and the mice it has trapped are all blessed with the gift of speech for Christmas Eve and decide to work together to help the tailor complete a cherry-colored coat the mayor has ordered for his Christmas wedding. *1:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $14 (MTF members, $12) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

★**"Go!": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids and adults join members of the Ann Arbor Go Club to play this ancient strategy board game that originated in China. *2–4 p.m., AADL Traverwood branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–4200.*

"A Christmas Carol": Wild Swan Theater. See 10 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. See 12 Friday. 3 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. EMU. *4 p.m., Crisler Arena. $15 & $22. 764–0247.*

★**Christmas Concert: Treetown Community Chorus.** David Perample directs this independent local mixed chorus in a varied program of holiday music. Piano accompanist is Leslie Austin. *4 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh St. Free; donations accepted. (586) 505–1155.*

★**Cultural Show: Children's Russian Club.** Local Russian children present the club's staged adaptations of 2 literary works. The first, based on Hans Christian Andersen's ***The Snow Queen,*** tells the story of a girl whose heart is turned to ice by the sinister queen. Also, a condensed version of ***Much Ado about Nothing,*** Shakespeare's high-spirited, sharp-tongued comedy about 2 pairs of young lovers. The plays are performed in Russian, with English-language synopses provided. *5 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Liberal Arts and Sciences Bldg. Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 741–1953.*

"Space Holiday": Dirty Bros. Astronaut hors d'oeuvres, live music by a band TBA, and screening of several films, including ***Christmas on Mars,*** the Flaming Lips' 2008 sci-fi flick about the first Christmas on a newly colonized Mars. *6 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. Cost TBA. 657–2337.*

"Kids Night Out!": Jewish Community Center. All kids ages 5–10 invited for dinner, games, craft activities, and a showing of ***Kung Fu Panda,*** Mark Osborne and John Stevenson's 2008 animated martial arts action comedy. *6:30–10 p.m., JCC gym, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $25 (members, $20), $23 (members, $18) for each additional sibling. Reservations required. 971–0990.*

★**Maize 'n' Blue Intrasquad: U-M Men's Gymnastics.** The U-M men's gymnastics team, which finished 6th in the NCAA championships last year, prepares for the 2008–2009 season with an intrasquad meet. *7 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. Free. 764–0247.*

★**"Annual Holiday Kirtan": Ann Arbor Kirtan.** All invited to join a group performance of this traditional devotional call-and-response music based on Hindu Vaishnava texts and the writings of poet/saints. Accompanied by live music based on rhythmic Indian ragas on bass guitar, tabla, and drums. The program begins with a social hour (bring a healthy snack or dessert to share). Tea is served. *7–10 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. Free, but donations accepted. 761–7435..*

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. See 11 Thursday. Today: **Team USA Under-17 vs. Mahoning Valley** (Boardman, Ohio) Phantoms of the North American Hockey League. 7 p.m.

★**Christmas Festival: Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society of America.** The program begins with a performance of the late Katherine Katz's Nativity drama *The Ann Arbor Christmas Play.* Followed by lighting of the Christmas tree, singing, and socializing. Bring a Christmas sweet to share. *7 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. (Parking permitted on the west side of Oswego and the east side of Ridgeway.) Free. 485–3764.*

"A Christmas Carol": Emergent Arts. See 4 Thursday. 7 p.m.

Holiday Show: Saline Varsity Blues. See 12 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

"Oliver Twist": Young Actors Guild. See 12 Friday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

"Le Bal Parisien": Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy. Dancing to early-19th-century popular French music. Dances include the French quadrille, the French and Cellarius waltzes, and others. All levels welcome. Vintage attire encouraged. Preceded at 11:30 a.m. by dance workshops. *7:45–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $25. Preregistration requested. 769–0041.*

Ballroom Dancing Night: Pittsfield Township Parks and Recreation Department. Ballroom dancing to recorded music from the last several decades. Preceded at 7 p.m. by an introduction to basic dance steps and ballroom dancing styles by Sue Bareis, Washtenaw County's best-known ballroom dance instructor. All invited, singles as well as couples. Re-

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13 SATURDAY *continued*

freshments. *8–10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Twp. Recreation Hall, S. State at Ellsworth. $5. 822–2120.*

2nd Saturday Contra Dance. Don Theyken calls contras to music by the Sharon Hollow String Band. No partner needed. Wear cool, casual clothes, and bring flat, smooth-soled shoes. Beginners welcome. *8 p.m., Webster Community Hall, 5665 Webster Church Rd. between Joy and North Territorial, Dexter. $8. 996–8359.*

Scott McWhinney: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth Cafe 704 Coffeehouse. Veteran local singer-songwriter and acoustic guitarist whose songs blend a soul-inflected sensibility with jazz stylings. *8–10 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. $10 at the door only. 665–0409.*

"Apartment 3A": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Born Yesterday": P.T.D. Productions. See 11 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Geoffrey & Jeffrey": Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Jimmy Pardo: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 11 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

2nd Saturday Swing Dance: Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy. Dancing to recorded jump blues, swing, and big-band music. All welcome; no partner necessary. Preceded at 7:30 p.m. by lessons ($5). *8:30–11 p.m., Kenville Studios, 323 Hoover. $5 ($7 includes lesson). 213–0537.*

14 SUNDAY

"Santa Central": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Kids invited to visit with Santa, play reindeer games, and enjoy a hayride. Snack. *10 a.m. and 12:30 & 2 p.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $2. Preregistration required. $4 vehicle entrance fee. 426–8211.*

★**"From Sumeria to Brooklyn: The Long, Strange Trip of the Jewish People": Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society.** Part of a series of talks by JCS member Larry Kuperman. Snack & beverage provided. Today's topic TBA. *10 a.m.–noon, Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 975–9872.*

★**Solo & Ensemble Recitals: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts.** Students perform works for piano, voice, violin, flute, clarinet, saxophone, drums, and more. *12:30 & 5 p.m., 637 S. Main (lower level). Free, but donations accepted. 213–2000.*

★**"Chesstastic!": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids and adults invited to play chess. Sets provided. *1–4 p.m., 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–4200.*

★**U-M Wrestling vs. CMU.** *2 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, Hoover at S. State. Free. 764–0247.*

★**"Michigan Jazz": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk, with musical examples, by **Hazen Schumacher,** the longtime former host of the locally produced public radio program *Jazz Revisited*. He also signs copies of his new book, *A Golden Age of Jazz Revisited, 1939–1942. 2–3:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

★**Friends of Four-Hand Piano.** Pianists of all abilities invited to bring their music for a casual afternoon of performing duets. An opportunity to meet other pianists and find partners for 4-hand and 2-piano music. Listeners welcome. *2 p.m., location TBA. Free. 971–6261, 485–5007.*

★**Shape Note Singing: The Ark/Ann Arbor Sacred Harp.** All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in colonial America. Songbooks available, but singers are encouraged to bring their own. *2–5 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free, but donations accepted for music scholarships. 747–9644, 761–1451.*

Advanced English Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Caller TBA with music by Debbie Jackson, Susie Lorand, and Steve Schneider. For experienced dancers. Fast pace, with limited walk-throughs. *2–5 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $10. (248) 288–4737.*

"The Nutcracker": Dance Alliance. Lisa Darby Clark directs local dancers and members of Jazz Dance Theater in a production of Tchaikovsky's ballet. *2 & 7 p.m., Saline High School Ellen Ewing Performing Arts Center, 1300 Campus Pkwy., Saline. Tickets $13 in advance at the Dancer's Boutique (2414 E. Stadium in Ann Arbor) & Dance Alliance (811 W. Michigan in Saline), and at the door. 429–9599.*

"A Christmas Carol": Wild Swan Theater. See 10 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

"A Christmas Carol": Emergent Arts. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Oliver Twist": Young Actors Guild. See 12 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Apartment 3A": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

"Born Yesterday": P.T.D. Productions. See 11 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Geoffrey & Jeffrey": Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**Holiday Concert: Dexter Community Band.** Bill Gourley directs this 85-member volunteer ensemble in a program of holiday music, including Dello Joio's *Variants on a Mediaeval Tune*, William Silvestri's arrangements of "Silent Night" and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," Robert Sheldon's arrangement of the Christmas medley *A Most Wonderful Christmas*, Jerry Brubaker's arrangement of Alan Silvestri and Glen Ballard's *Polar Express* concert suite, and 2 Eric Richards arrangements for military band, *Three Hanukkah Themes* and *Jazz Fantasia on "Greensleeves."* Also, a Christmas sing-along. *3 p.m., Dexter Center for the Performing Arts, Dexter High School, 2200 N. Parker at Shield, Dexter. Free. 426–2734.*

Student/Faculty Concert: Arts in Motion Dance Studio. Performances by Arts in Motion dance (3 p.m.) and music (4 p.m.) students and faculty. Also, a chance to try out one of the studio's Nia aerobic exercise (1 p.m.) and tap dance (2 p.m.) classes. All proceeds benefit the Humane Society of Huron Valley and Alpha House, a local family-oriented homeless shelter. *3 p.m., Forsythe Middle School, 1655 Newport Rd. at Sunset. $5 suggested donation. 222–6246.*

Children's Puppet Shows: Dreamland Theater. See 7 Sunday. 3:30 p.m.

★**"Traditional King's College Festival of Christmas Lessons and Carols": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.** St. Andrew's music director Deborah Friauff directs the church adult choir and 2 children's choirs and Suzanne Bender directs the bell choir in this traditional English service, in which 9 scripture readings alternate with seasonal anthems and carols, some sung by the congregation. The music begins with a solo treble performance of "Once in Royal David's City" and includes music by Britten, Howells, and Mendelssohn, as well as arrangements of traditional music by David Willcocks and others. *4 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663–0518.*

★**Rainbow Book Club.** All invited to discuss ***Beebo Brinker,*** Ann Bannon's 1962 lesbian pulp novel about a young Wisconsin butch who moves to Greenwich Village. Also, a potluck (bring a dish to pass) and a book exchange (bring a wrapped book if you wish). *4:30–6 p.m., 8595 Glendale Dr. (off MacArthur Blvd. from E. Clark Rd.), Superior Twp. Free. 763–4168.*

★**"Booked for Murder" Mystery Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss 2 novels about blizzards. Christopher Fowler's ***White Corridor*** is the story of 2 senior-citizen sleuths who, via cell phone, help solve a murder while stuck on the road in a blizzard. P. J. Tracy's ***Snow Blind*** is about a snowman contest that turns into a murder investigation when 2 corpses are found inside the snowmen. *4:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 769–2149.*

★**Living Nativity: First Baptist Church of Ypsilanti.** *Dec. 14–16.* Nativity tableau featuring live animals, people in period costume, and recorded music. Also, carol singing and animal petting. The 6:30 program is especially aimed at children. *6:30, 7, & 7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church of Ypsilanti, 1110 W. Cross, Ypsilanti. Free. 482–7380.*

★**Christmas Concert: Northside Community Church.** Mary Ellen Hagel and Sheree Clark direct the church's chancel and bell choirs in a program of sacred Christmas music TBA. Soloists are baritone Chris Grapentine, mezzo-soprano Holly Perry, and tenor Glenn Perry. Accompanist is pianist Kevin Miller. *7:30 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton Dr. Free. 662–6351.*

Yehonatan Berick and Jean-Francois Latour: Kerrytown Concert House. Award-winning U-M violin professor Berick performs Mozart's Violin Sonata in D Major, Paul Ben-Haim's Sonata in G Major, and Faure's Violin Sonata no. 1. He is joined by young Canadian pianist Latour in a performance of Ravel's *Tzigane*. Latour also plays Ravel's *La Valse*. *7:30 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10, $15, & $25 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

★**"Who Decided That Jews Can't Intermarry Anyway?": Beth Israel Congregation.** Talk by U-M Frankel Center visiting scholar **Lisbeth Fried.** *7:45–9:15 p.m., Beth Israel Congregation, 2000 Washtenaw. Free. 665–9897.*

15 MONDAY

★**Embroiderers Guild of America.** Stitchers of all abilities invited to work on their projects, socialize, and learn about guild activities. *7 p.m., United Way, 2305 Platt. Free to visitors ($30 annual dues). 975–4348.*

16 TUESDAY

Winter Luncheon: American Association of University Women. Club member Judy Daltuva and members of the Smart Money interest group present a **fashion show** of clothes from the Ann Arbor Thrift Shop. Also, lunch and a performance by the **Inglis Recorder Players.** *11 a.m., Washtenaw Country Club, 2955 Packard, Ypsilanti. $20. Reservations required by Dec. 8. 646–1136.*

"Tea with the Fairies": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. Crazy Wisdom staff dress up as magical fairies to sprinkle fairy dust and serve tea, petits fours, and cookies to kids and their families. Also, fairy stories and readings. Bring your own fairy wings and dolls. *1 & 4 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. $10.50 (babies age 18 months & younger, free). Preregistration required. 665–9468.*

★**Writers Reading at Sweetwaters.** Hamtramck poet **Vievee Francis** reads from her current manuscript *Humaniora* and from her acclaimed debut collection *Blue-Tail Fly*, which features poems that give voice to an array of "outsiders"—from soldiers and common folk to leading political figures—who played the role of cultural irritant, or "blue-tail fly," in the two decades leading up to the Civil War. A former Ann Arbor Poetry Slam Grand Slam winner, Francis is a dynamic performer with an astounding array of vocal cadences. *7–9 p.m., Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, 123 W. Washington. Free. 369–2798.*

★**"Annual Christmas Concert": The Willis Patterson Our Own Thing Chorale.** U-M music school professor emeritus Willis Patterson directs this popular local choir in a program of Christmas music TBA. *7 p.m., Bethel AME Church, 900 John A. Woods Dr. Free; donations accepted. 769–4437.*

★**"Great Adventure Trips Around the Globe": Sierra Club.** Several club members give slide-illustrated talks on their most adventurous trips. Refreshments. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 615–0516.*

★**Winter Band Concert: Huron High School.** The Varsity, Concert, and Symphony bands perform a program TBA. *7:30 p.m., Huron High School, 2727 Fuller Rd. Free. 994–2040.*

"Apartment 3A": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

17 WEDNESDAY

★**Barbara Brodsky: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** This local interfaith minister, founder of the Deep Spring Center for Meditation and Spiritual Inquiry, channels Aaron, a "being of light." *10:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Free. 665–0409.*

★**"The Taste of Ann Arbor No-Mile Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Riders meet for lunch at different restaurants the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays through the winter. *11:30 a.m., location TBA. Free. 662–5052.*

"Apartment 3A": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Chili's Comedy Dojo": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Fast-paced show featuring stand-up comedy by 15 recent graduates of veteran comic and *Tonight Show* writer Chili Challis's Comedy Dojo. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $5 in advance and at the door. 996–9080.*

18 THURSDAY

★**Ann Arbor Society for Origami.** All invited (children & adults) to learn about and try their hand at origami, the Japanese art of paper folding. *7–9:30 p.m., Great Oaks Cohousing Common House, 500 Little Lake Dr. (off Parkland from Jackson between Wagner & Zeeb). Free. 975–4669.*

Film Discussion Group: Jewish Community Center. Michigan Theater executive director Russ Collins leads a discussion of films TBA. All invited. *7 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $75 for the yearlong 10-session series; prorated weekly fee TBA. 971–0990.*

"Apartment 3A": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Geoffrey & Jeffrey": Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Born Yesterday": P.T.D. Productions. See 11 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Tom Foss: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Dec. 18–20.* Often compared to George Carlin and Robin

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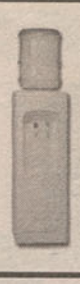

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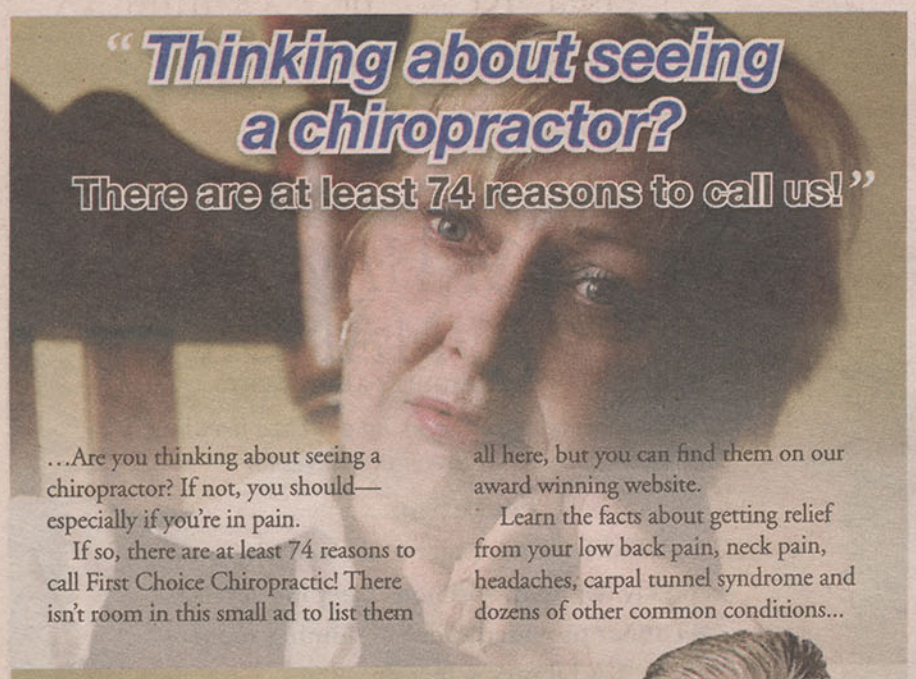

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Finvarra's Wren is at the Ark Dec. 20 (see Nightspots).

18 THURSDAY *continued*

Williams, this veteran stand-up comic is an energetic, animated performer who peppers his audience with a barrage of snappy jokes about his family, his West Virginia home, and the world around him. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking shows. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $7 (Thurs.) & $10 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $10 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

19 FRIDAY

★**"Revolution Hero": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to compete in tournaments playing either **Dance Dance Revolution,** a computer-guided movement game, or **Guitar Hero,** a music video game. Prizes. *6–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

Parents' Night Out: Ann Arbor YMCA. Parents can drop off their kids ages 2–10 for dinner, games and sports, and (age 5 & older only) a dip in the pool. *6:15–10 p.m., YMCA, 400 W. Washington. $30 (members, $25). Preregistration required. 661–8012.*

Badminton Tournament: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation. *Dec. 19 & 20.* Tournament with a variety of singles and doubles divisions. *6:30 p.m. (Dec. 19) & 9 a.m.–late afternoon (Dec. 20), Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center, 2960 Washtenaw. Entry fee: $15 ($10 per additional division). Free to spectators. 971–6355, ext. 0.*

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Cincinnati. *7 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (youths under 18, $1; U-M students with ID, free). 764–0247.*

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. See 11 Thursday. Today: **Team USA Under-17 vs. Springfield** (Illinois) Jr. Blues of the North American Hockey League. 7 p.m.

★**"Peace Generator": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** All invited to join a silent meditation on world peace, forgiveness, cooperation, and joy. *7–9 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Free. 971–8576.*

★**"What the Bleep Do We Know": Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers.** Screening of William Arntz and Betsy Chasse's 2004 quasidocumentary fantasy about a young woman who is introduced to the fantastical Wonderland of quantum physics as her quotidian identity unravels. Roger Ebert likens it to a "collision in the editing room between talking heads, an impenetrable human parable, and a hallucinogenic animated cartoon." Popcorn & beverages available. *7–9 p.m., Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers Studio B, 2007 S. State. Free; donations accepted. 945–8602.*

The Black House Ceilidh: Kerrytown Concert House. *Dec. 19 & 20.* This Detroit-area acoustic ensemble performs traditional Yuletide carols, including Renaissance, Scottish, Spanish, and originals in a traditional vein. "The feel is rustic and raw; you get the distinct impression that this is a minstrel show in your living room," says christmasreviews.com critic Carol Swanson of the band's 2006 CD *Upon a Winter's Eve: A Collection of Winter and Yuletide Carols of Yesteryear.* "The Black House Ceilidh combines an eclectic array of instrumentals and vocals, and the straightforward presentation is executed with great heart and unfettered simplicity." Members are singer and Highland bagpiper Caleb Gilbert, singer-guitarists Ernesto Villarreal and Kevin Tyler, violinist and a Hardanger fiddle player Judy Plester, lutenist and viola da gambist Michael Manderen, and percussionist Elizabeth Courier. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $10 (students, $5). Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

24th Annual "Nutcracker" Ballet: Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. *Dec. 19–21.* Carol Radovic directs this local dance company in its performance of Tchaikovsky's perennially popular Christmas ballet. Based on a story by E. T. A. Hoffmann, it tells the tale of a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a fairyland on Christmas Eve. About 100 dancers perform, ranging from children to adults—some of the adult dancers have danced in the production since they were tots. The score is performed live by the Michigan Sinfonietta, conducted by Leo Najar. *8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $24 (students & seniors, $20; kids 18 & under, $14) available in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Murder, Hope": Dreamland Theater. Carrie Morris directs Becky Poole's absurdist one-woman play. Poole describes the show as "murder ballads, characters off balance, and how Batman makes me feel." *8 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. $5. 657–2337.*

"Apartment 3A": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Born Yesterday": P.T.D. Productions. See 11 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Geoffrey & Jeffrey": Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Tom Foss: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 18 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Singles Dance: Parents Without Partners. See 6 Saturday. 9 p.m.–1 a.m.

20 SATURDAY

62nd Annual Christmas Bird Count: Washtenaw Audubon Society. The National Audubon Society has conducted a Christmas bird count every year since 1900. (The first Washtenaw count was held in 1947.) Each count area is a 15-mile-diameter circle, divided into 8 regions, that must be counted in a single day. Everyone recognizes that this makeshift census may be off by thousands, but much useful information is gained by comparing the results from year to year. The count is also great fun, and everyone from novices to experienced birders is invited to participate. You can volunteer for all or part of the day, either as a field observer or (if you have a bird feeder) as a feeder watcher. In addition to the daylight census of local birds, some count regions also conduct predawn searches for owls. For information and instruction on the count for the Washtenaw area (which is centered on Ann Arbor), call the organizers as soon as possible. There is a small ($5) fee to defray costs of publishing the results in *American Bird.* The results are tallied at a potluck dinner at U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens this evening. *6 a.m. For instructions and further information, call Jacco Gelderloos at 973–9422. To sign up as a feeder watcher, call Kurt Hagemeister at 663–9746 or 665–7427.*

Maureen Schiffman and Coco: Performance Network Children's Theater Network. Local puppeteer Schiffman brings her monkey puppet pal for a multicultural holiday program of songs and stories for prekindergartners through 5th-graders. *11 a.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets $10 (youths age 16 & under, $7) in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. For reservations or to charge by phone, call 663–0681.*

★**"Yoga Meets Dance Winter Solstice Celebration."** Certified local Yoga Meets Dance instructor Natasha Schaffer leads a yoga/dance workout. All fitness levels welcome. *11:30 a.m., Mind, Body + Spirit Academe, 1785 W. Stadium. Free. Preregistration required. 239–3174.*

★**"Super Smash Kart Championship Series": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades 6–12 invited to compete in the 5th of 6 monthly tournaments for single players and teams of 4–5 players of Mario Kart Double Dash and Super Smash Brothers Melee

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Veterans Memorial Ice Arena. We offer Instructional Skating. Levels: include Kinderskate, Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced classes. To register visit Vets (2150 Jackson Road) online at **www.a2gov.org/parks** or call 734.761.7240. **Upcoming Instructional Skating: Session III**: Jan. 26 to March 21. $90/$72 resident discount.

Mack Indoor Pool. American Red Cross group swim classes for ages 6 months to adult beginners. Upcoming sessions: Jan. 10 to Feb. 28 AND March 7 to May 2. To register visit **www.a2gov.org/parks** or call 734.994.2898.

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20 SATURDAY *continued*

video games. Prizes. *Noon–5 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★Yule Ritual: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove. All invited to celebrate the rebirth of the parents of the cosmos in Irish mythology, primal mother Danu and sun god Bel. The ritual includes singing, making an offering, and honoring ancestors and nature spirits. Also, potluck (bring a dish to pass) and raffle. Preceded by a fire watch beginning Friday (7 p.m., 263 Larkspur). *2–5 p.m., IC Education Center, 1522 Hill St. Free. 262–1052.*

★LezRead Book Club. All invited to join **Marianne Martin** in a discussion of ***Never Ending,*** her novel about the difficulties that arise 4 years into a couple's relationship. *4–6 p.m., WRAP Resource Center, 319 Braun Ct. Free. 663–0036.*

"Buhr Blitz": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. Public skating, with a family-oriented program of games and contests. Prizes. *2:30–4:30 p.m., Buhr Park Ice Rink, 2751 Packard. $6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, $5). Skate rentals ($3) available. 971–3228.*

★Open House: University Lowbrow Astronomers. *Dec. 20 & 27.* A chance to join local astronomy buffs for a look at the sky through instruments at the Peach Mountain Observatory. Participants are encouraged to bring their own telescopes as well. Visitors must turn off all electronic equipment (car radios, transmitters, phones, etc.) at the observatory entrance. Program canceled if sky is overcast at sunset or if the weather is extremely inclement. *5 p.m.–12:30 a.m. (as long as the sky remains clear), Peach Mountain Observatory, North Territorial Rd. (about ¼ miles west of Hudson Mills Metropark), Dexter. Free. 332–9132.*

"Family Latke Hop": Jewish Community Center. Dinner, with dancing to live music, kids games and craft activities, and a community candle-lighting ceremony. *6–9 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Admission: $12 (kids, $6) for nonmembers, $10 (kids, $5) for members. Reservations requested. 971–0990.*

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. See 11 Thursday. Today: **Team USA Under-17 vs. Springfield** (Illinois) Jr. Blues of the North American Hockey League. 7 p.m.

"Spanish Carols and Sephardic Songs": Vocal Arts Ensemble. Benjamin Cohen leads this 24-member local vocal ensemble in some Sephardic love songs and holiday music, a Cristobal de Morales motet, and more. Also, the ensemble is accompanied by a guitarist, a marimbist, and a harpist in a performance of Conrad Susa's "Carols and Lullabies." *7:30 p.m., Genesis of Ann Arbor, 2309 Packard. $15 (students & seniors, $10). 665–7823, 741–7451.*

International Folk Dancing. Dancing to recorded music. The program begins with a dance lesson. *8–11 p.m., Gretchen's House, 2625 Traver. $3–$5 (students, $1–$3) donation. 995–0011.*

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Cobblestone Farm Dancers. Robin Warner and Peter Baker call to music by the Dawn's Early Light. No partner needed; all dances taught; beginners welcome. Lesson at 7:45 p.m. Wear cool, casual clothes and comfy, flat, smooth-soled shoes. Also, a free open jam for string and other musicians, 3–6 p.m. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $10. 426–0241.*

24th Annual "Nutcracker" Ballet: Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 19 Friday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Apartment 3A": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Geoffrey & Jeffrey": Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Born Yesterday": P.T.D. Productions. See 11 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Tom Foss: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 18 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"Girls Night \aut\ with Tracy Mack": Sh\aut\ Cabaret and Gallery. Performances by local blues-rock and folk-rock singer-songwriter Mack and the Detroit-area acoustic rock band **Just Jill.** *9 p.m.–midnight, Sh\aut\, 325 Braun Ct. $5 cover. 663–0036.*

"Serious about Salsa" Latin Dance Party: danceRevolution Dance Studio. See 6 Saturday. 9 p.m.–1 a.m.

21 SUNDAY

★Hanukkah Party: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society. Family-oriented program featuring a Hanukkah play and secular observance, singing, craft activities, and games. All invited. *10 a.m.–noon, Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 975–9872.*

"Hanukkah Wonderland": U-M Chabad House. *Dec. 21–29.* This festival features food and craft vendors, kids activities, Jewish film screenings, a Lego menorah contest, cookie decorating, a menorah lighting (5:45 p.m.), and more. Israeli *sufganiot* (jelly doughnuts) & latkes. The Dec. 24 menorah lighting is followed by Chinese dinner and a family program. *11:30 a.m.–7 p.m. (Dec. 21–25 & 28), 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m. (Dec. 26), & 7–10 p.m. (Dec. 29), 500 E. Washington (lower level). $2.50 admission. 995–3276.*

"Skate with Frosty": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. All invited to skate with Frosty the Snowman to recorded holiday music. Free candy canes. *1–2:30 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. $6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, $5). $1 discount for city residents. Skate rentals available ($3). 761–7240.*

★**PL2: Public Library Pokemon League: Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades K–5 invited to bring a Nintendo DS and a copy of Pokemon Diamond or Pearl to compete for prizes. *1–4 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★**Enlightened Minds Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss ***Who Would You Be Without Your Story?,*** Byron Katie's conversations with 15 people dealing with difficult problems. *2 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 272–9353.*

Family Dance: Pittsfield Union Grange. All children and their parents or grandparents invited for an afternoon of contra and square dancing with callers John Freeman, Ed Vincent, and David Park Williams and music by David West and Donna Baird. Followed by Grange-baked cookies. *2–4 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $12 per family. 769–1052.*

24th Annual "Nutcracker" Ballet: Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 19 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Geoffrey & Jeffrey": Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

44th Annual Community "Messiah" Sing. All interested people capable of reading and performing the vocal parts are invited to join this friendly, informal, unrehearsed performance of Handel's beloved oratorio. Between 150 and 200 singers usually participate, including professionals, semiprofessionals, serious amateurs, families, and church choirs. A volunteer orchestra of 35 to 45 instrumentalists is also needed; prospective players should call the number below as soon as possible to ensure section balance. Directed by former longtime Pioneer High choral director Bob Pratt. Scores provided, or participants may bring their own. (The Prout edition, published by Schirmer, is used.) Orchestra players should bring their own stands and be ready for a warm-up at 2:15 p.m. Cider, water, and hot tea provided; bring goodies to share. *2:30 p.m., St. Clare Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. Small donation requested to help defray expenses. For more information, call Meg Gower at 433–0150.*

★**"Christmas Party": Conor O'Neill's.** Santa is on hand to take wish lists from and have his photo taken with kids, who also each get a small present. Also, caroling. *3–4 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. Free. 665–2968.*

Children's Puppet Shows: Dreamland Theater. See 7 Sunday. 3:30 p.m.

"Songs of Starlight and Inner Vision: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth Cafe 704 Coffeehouse. Candlelight winter solstice concert by **Norma Gentile,** a local soprano and "sound shaman" whose repertoire of rhapsodic chants includes both originals and works by 12th-century mystic Hildegard von Bingen. Gentile accompanies herself on a Tibetan singing bowl and a shruti box, an Indian drone instrument resembling an accordion. *4 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. $20 in advance at healingchants.com/itineraryJhtml and at the door. 330–3997.*

"Tradicional Pastorela Mexicana": Alebrije Productions. This local Latino cultural group performs, in Spanish, local writer Marc Perf's comic *pastorela* ***Paso del Norte.*** A *pastorela* is a Mexican version of the medieval miracle play that depicts the struggle between good and evil through the story of Lucifer's efforts to divert the shepherds from their pilgrimage to see the newborn baby Jesus in Bethlehem. *5:30 p.m., 209 Washtenaw, Ypsilanti. $8 (kids, $5) suggested donation. 330–1890.*

★**"Living Nativity": Bethlehem United Church of Christ.** Living Nativity scene with live animals, accompanied by a concert on the church's newly renovated Casavant pipe organ. Also, refreshments and a chance to tour the Journey Room, a minimuseum of the church's history. *6–8 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 665–6149.*

22 MONDAY

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Florida Gulf Coast. *7 p.m., Crisler Arena. $15 & $22. 764–0247.*

23 TUESDAY

★**"Holiday Craft 2008": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades K–5 invited to make a coupon book to give as a New Year's gift. *10–11:30 a.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–4200.*

24 WEDNESDAY

"Marathon Skate": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. *Dec. 24 & 31.* Skating to music by a DJ. *1:15–5 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. $6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, $5). $1 discount for city residents. Skate rentals available ($3). 761–7240.*

★**Living Nativity: First Congregational Church.** Costumed reenactors, accompanied by a live camel, sheep, and donkey, re-create the traditional Nativity scene. *4–8 p.m., First Congregational Church, 608 E. William at State. Free. 662–1679.*

★**Lessons and Carols: First Presbyterian Church.** The traditional program of scripture readings interspersed with sacred carols, anthems, and hymns performed by the church's chancel choir and the First Presbyterian Brass Quintet. Includes music by Distler, Thompson, Hassler, Gardner, and Pergolesi. *5 & 7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466.*

★**Lessons and Carols: Northside Community Church.** Sheree Clark directs the church's chancel choir and instrumental and vocal soloists in the traditional program of scripture readings interspersed with sacred carols, anthems, and hymns. Accompanists are pianists Martin Katz, Kathryn Goodson, and Adrienne Clark. *6 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton Dr. Free. 662–6351.*

"Christmas Eve Celebration": New Hope Baptist Church. Young Flint singers **The Three Ishmel Sisters** perform Christmas songs. Accompanist is Darnell Ishmel. *6:30 p.m., New Hope Baptist Church, 218 Chapin. Freewill offering. 994–4620.*

★**Festival of Lessons and Carols: First Baptist Church.** The church presents the Christmas story through a program of alternating scriptural readings and choral and congregational singing adapted from the famous Christmas Eve service at King's College, Cambridge (England). Children welcome; child care provided for infants and toddlers. *7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free. 663–9376.*

★**"Festival Prelude": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.** St. Andrew's music director Deborah Friauff directs the church choir, bell choir, soloists, and other musicians in a program of Christmas carols, anthems, and other music in candlelight. *10:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663–0518.*

25 THURSDAY (Christmas)

"Geoffrey & Jeffrey": Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

26 FRIDAY

"The Big Freeze": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Family Day. *Dec. 26–31.* Activity tables about the science of cold feature liquid nitrogen demos (noon, 2, & 4 p.m.) and hands-on ice cream making (11 a.m. & 1 & 3 p.m.). Also, a chance to try on blubber gloves, cut snowflakes, examine endothermic and exothermic reactions, and more. *10 a.m.–5 p.m. (Dec. 26, 27, & 29–31) & noon–5 p.m. (Dec. 28) Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann. $8 (members & infants, free) regular museum admission. 995–5439.*

"Geoffrey & Jeffrey": Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Billy Ray Bauer: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Dec. 26 & 27.* This dynamic Detroit jokester uses a fine repertoire of voices and dialects to tell fresh, lively stories, often drawn from his experiences as the father of 4 boys. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking shows. *8 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $8 reserved seating in advance, $10 general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

27 SATURDAY

★**"Laughter Yoga": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local drama teacher Phil Walker and storyteller Badria Jazairi lead a program of exercises based on laughter yoga, creative play, and theater games. For 6th-graders through adults. *2–2:45 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

★**4th Saturday Contra Dance and Holiday Celebration: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance.** Callers TBA with music by the Millers. No partner needed. All dances taught. Wear a

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What's going on in Washtenaw county?

Check out the area's most complete events listings on www.arborweb.com!

arborweb.com
Ann Arbor online

Note: Educational documentaries are listed with the daily Events.

Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.

Dec. 19: Feature film TBA, followed by discussion. FREE. 994–3387. Jewel Heart (1129 Oak Valley Dr. just south of Ann Arbor–Saline Rd.), 7 p.m.

M-Flicks. FREE. 763–1107. U-M Natural Science Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Dec. 5: **"Thank You for Smoking"** (Jason Reitman, 2006). March 31–April 6. Withering, edgy comedy about a showdown between an amoral tobacco lobbyist and a Birkenstock-wearing antitobacco Vermont senator. Aaron Eckhart, Katie Holmes, William H. Macy.

Michigan Theater Foundation. Unless there is a live show in the main theater, 2 or 3 different films are shown, usually more than once each, almost every night. For complete, updated schedules, see michtheater.org or call 668–TIME. Tickets (unless otherwise noted): $9 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $7; MTF members, $6.50). Michigan Theater, times TBA unless otherwise noted.

Dec. 1: **"Harold and Maude"** (Hal Ashby, 1972). Dark comedy about the love affair between a death-obsessed young man and a spry octogenarian, with music by Cat Stevens. Bud Cort, Ruth Gordon. 7 p.m.

Dec. 2: **"The Human Experience"** (Charles Kinnane, 2008). A band of brothers travels the world in search of the meaning of human life in a journey that brings them into the middle of the lives of the homeless on the streets of New York City, orphans and disabled children of Peru, and the abandoned lepers in the forests of Ghana, Africa.

Dec. 5–11: **"A Christmas Tale"** (Arnaud Desplechin, 2008). Comic drama about a troubled family and its Christmastime reunion. Catherine Deneuve. French, subtitles.

Dec. 7: **"White Christmas"** (Michael Curtiz, 1954). Two nightclub performers help an old army pal try to make his winter resort popular. Musical score by Irving Berlin. Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney. FREE. 4 p.m.

Dec. 8: **"Being There"** (Hal Ashby, 1979). Black comedy about a childlike displaced gardener elevated to power by people who take him for a genius. Peter Sellers. 7 p.m.

Dec. 12–18: **"Slumdog Millionaire"** (Danny Boyle and Loveleen Tandan, 2008). Comic drama about a poor young Indian boy who becomes a contestant on the Indian version of *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* English & Hindi, subtitles.

Dec. 14: **"Elf"** (Jon Favreau, 2003). Goofy comedy starring Will Ferrell as a man who's been raised as an elf at the North Pole. James Caan, Bob Newhart, Mary Steenburgen. FREE.

Dec. 19–25: **"Milk"** (Gus Van Sant, 2008). Biopic about Harvey Milk, California's first openly gay elected official. Sean Penn, James Brolin.

Dec. 20: **"It's a Wonderful Life"** (Frank Capra, 1946). Oh, you know the story. Jimmy Stewart, Donna Reed. 4 p.m.

Dec. 21: **"Miracle on 34th Street"** (George Seaton, 1947). Heartwarming comedy about an amiable old man working as a department store Santa who ends up in court on trial for insanity when he tells a skeptical young girl that he's the real thing. Edmund Gwenn, Natalie Wood, Maureen O'Hara. 4 p.m.

Dec. 25: **"Shrek"** (Andrew Adamson and Vicky Jenson, 2001). Popular animated movie that features a whimsical Beauty-and-the-Beast-style tale about a genial green ogre who falls for a canny princess. Also, prizes and special concessions. Sponsored by Temple Beth Emeth. $6. 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 28: **"The Muppet Movie"** (James Frawley, 1979). Road movie mockumentary about the way the Muppets first met. Also, a performance by the local song-and-dance team of 10-year-old twins **Ariel & Zoey.** $5. 4 p.m.

U-M Center for Korean Studies. FREE. 764–2252. Lorch Hall Askwith Auditorium (611 Tappan), 7 p.m.

Dec. 4: **"The Show Must Go On"** (Jae-rim Han, 2007). Comedy about a gangster who tries to be a good husband and father. Korean, subtitles.

U-M English Department Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group.

Dec. 9: ***Bud Abbott & Lou Costello Meet Frankenstein*** (Charles Barton, 1948). Comic horror flick about 2 freight handlers who receive a package from Europe containing the remains of Frankenstein's monster and Dracula. Pizza. FREE. 764–2253. Duderstadt Center Videoconference Suite (2281 Bonisteel, North Campus), 7–9 p.m.

U-M Hillel. FREE. 769–0500. 1210 Chemistry, 930 North University, 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 3: **"Someone to Run with"** (Oded Davidoff, 2006). Drama based on David Grossman's harrowing coming-of-age tale, set on the streets of contemporary Jerusalem, about the intimacy that develops between 2 teens who have never met but whose lives become intertwined. Hebrew, subtitles. Followed by a discussion with screenwriter Noah Stollman.

U-M Japanese Animation Film Society.

Dec. 6: **"Animania."** Monthly anime-a-thon of feature films and episodes from TV series. This month: feature films and TV series TBA. Raffle. U-M campus admission policy: No one under 18 admitted without an adult. FREE. umich.edu/~animania. MLB, 812 E. Washington at Thayer, 10 a.m.–midnight.

U-M Max Kade House. FREE. 764–5018. Max Kade house (Baits II, 1440 Hubbard, North Campus), 7–10 p.m.

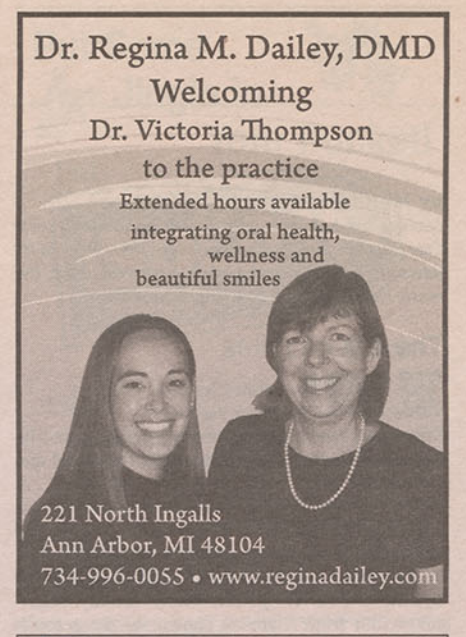
Dec. 3: **"What to Do in Case of Fire"** (Gregor Schnitzler, 2001). Drama about a number of former anarchists in Berlin brought back together when an act they carried out in their youth comes back to haunt them. German, subtitles.

U-M Screen Arts and Cultures. FREE. 764–0147. Natural Science Auditorium, 6 p.m.–midnight.

Dec. 12 & 13: **"Lighthouse Festival."** Screenings of animated, digital, 16mm, and conventional-film movies made by sophomores (Dec. 12) and juniors and seniors (Dec. 13). Note: The Saturday show is usually "packed," says an organizer; get there early.

WCBN-FM. FREE admission. 763–3500. Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington, 9 p.m.

Dec. 10: **"Cry-Baby"** (John Waters, 1990). Teen-musical parody about a group of delinquents in 50s Baltimore. Johnny Depp, Traci Lords, Ricki Lake, Iggy Pop, Polly Bergen, Susan Tyrrell.



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27 SATURDAY *continued*

costume or cool, casual clothes, and bring flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. Holiday treats. Also, a free open jam for string and other musicians, 3–6 p.m. *7:30–10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). Free. 730–6919.*

"Geoffrey & Jeffrey": Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Billy Ray Bauer: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 26 Friday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

28 SUNDAY

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Northwestern. *2 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (youths under 18, $1; U-M students with ID, free). 764–0247.*

★"Reiki": Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers. Local reiki practitioners are on hand to demonstrate this healing technique and discuss its history and applications. Q & A. *3–5 p.m., Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers Studio B, 2007 S. State. Free; donations accepted. 945–8602.*

★"Dancing Babies": Ann Arbor District Library. All parents invited to bring their babies for a program of music and dancing presented by the local guitarists and banjoists Betsy Beckerman and Sara Melton Keller. *4–4:30 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–4200.*

★"Classical Indian Drumming": Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers. Local percussionist Dan Piccolo, the drummer in the local Afrobeat-jazz band Nomo, plays traditional percussion instruments in classic Indian styles and demonstrates the drumming techniques used in Indian music. *5:30–6:30 p.m., Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers Studio B, 2007 S. State. Free; donations accepted. 945–8602.*

"Geoffrey & Jeffrey": Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

29 MONDAY

★"Shaker Salt-Dough Charms": Ann Arbor District Library. All kids in grades K–5 invited make a Shaker door or window charm out of dough to take home to bake. *10–11:30 a.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

★Nintendo DS Fest: Ann Arbor District Library. *Dec. 29 & 30 (different branch locations).* Players of all ages are invited to bring their Nintendo DS and favorite DS games to play and share tips and tricks with others. *1–5 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch (Dec. 29), 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., & AADL Malletts Creek Branch (Dec. 30), 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–8301.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. North Carolina Central. *7 p.m., Crisler Arena. $15 & $22. 764–0247.*

★"Duct Tape Do-Over": Ann Arbor District Library. All kids in grades 6–12 invited to make a craft with duct tape. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

30 TUESDAY

★"Silly Stories": Ann Arbor District Library. Nationally renowned local storyteller Laura Pershin Raynor tells stories for preschoolers through 3rd-graders. *10–10:30 a.m., AADL multipurpose room, lower level, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★"Game On with the Vault": Ann Arbor District Library. All 6th-graders through adults invited to learn to play some popular European-style family games with Vault of Midnight game experts. *6–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

"Improvising in the New Year!": Kerrytown Concert House. Jazz improvisation by local and area musicians, including trumpeter and electric violinist James Cornish, percussionist Curtis Glatter, bassist Joel Peterson, pianist Kenn Thomas, and reed players and flutists Piotr Michalowski and Marco Novachcoff. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

31 WEDNESDAY (New Year's Eve)

"24-hour Puppet Show": Dreamland Theater. The Dreamland puppet troupe and puppeteer Patrick Elkins puppet in the New Year with 24 hours of marionette, rod, and shadow puppet shows. *Noon Dec. 31–noon Jan. 1, Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. Donation. 657–2337.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Wisconsin. *2 p.m., Crisler Arena. $15 & $22. 764–0247.*

"New Year's Eve Party": Conor O'Neill's. Dancing to a DJ, along with champagne toasts at 7 p.m. (the Irish New Year) and midnight, a 4-course dinner, breakfast, and party favors. *6 p.m.–2:30 a.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $60 in advance and (if available) at the door. 665–2968.*

Dr. Grangelove's New Year's Eve Contra & English Dance. Glen Morningstar calls dances to music by Dave Orlin, Debbie Jackson, and Brad Battey. Refreshments. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $15. 484–9964.*

Tim O'Rourke: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. This L.A. comic is an affable but fast-paced observational humorist with a fresh point of view who is best known as Tim the bartender on *The Drew Carey Show.* Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. The early show is a nonsmoking show. The late show includes a champagne toast and party favors. *8 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. Tickets $25 (8 p.m.) & $30 (10:30 p.m.) in advance and at the door. 996–9080.*

New Year's Eve Dance: Parents Without Partners. All singles invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s to contemporary dance music played by DJ John Brown. Hors d'oeuvres; brunch at 12:30 a.m. Cash bar. Smoking allowed in designated areas. Preceded at 8 p.m. by free dance lessons. *9 p.m.–1:30 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. $25 in advance by Dec. 29, $30 at the door. 449–2236.*

Music at Nightspots

by John Hinchey

Listings are based on information available at press time. Last-minute changes are always possible, so it's advisable to call ahead. Unless otherwise noted, live music runs from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

karaoke

MoFo Karaoke

Go easy on the inflatable guitar

When I arrive at the Elbow Room, Stevie Wonder is pumping through the dark, dingy space. It's wonderfully funky. The husband-wife team that runs MoFo Karaoke is setting up, but I don't see any bubbles. That's what I came here for. The website promised bubbles and blow-up instruments.

My friend Pete shows up, puts his keys down, and ducks into the men's room. When he returns, moments later, he says an aging hippie at the urinal told him, "I was wondering when you were going to come in." According to Pete, the man then opened his fly, leaned one hand against the wall without assisting himself, if you know what I mean, and asked, "So, what do you think about life?"

I accuse Pete of messing with me. "I didn't have time to make that up, Charmie," he says. He's right. "Well," I tell him, "welcome to Ypsilanti."

We look over the list of songs available, but I don't recognize any of them. It's not the lineup of Glen Campbell and Top 40 I was anticipating. Maybe the Observer should have sent someone more hip on this assignment.

The first singer takes the stage, and surprise—it's the aging hippie from the bathroom. He performs "Yellow Submarine" (yes, I do recognize that one), shifting from one foot to the other and shrugging his shoulders while singing horribly off key. About halfway through, we notice that his fly is still open. Man, do we laugh.

Other singers are called up by name. "Roz" sings Amy Winehouse's "You Know I'm No Good." She and the singers who follow her are all good or better, except for the two skinny white guys who bend far backward while shouting "Come on, Eileen." They may be off key, but they're having a blast.

People are dancing, and the place is jumping. A kid with green hair wearing a bandolier—complete with long, shiny, pointy bullets—sings a song I don't recognize; it's something from the 1980s, I think.

The woman makes an announcement: "MoFo Karaoke loves you, but you don't get a second song, so pick your favorite."

The next guy performs a Devo song. He's a big fella wearing a Viking helmet and looks just as if he came from a science fiction convention. I ask where he got his hat and he shows me a big box offstage, but when I dig around in it, I find no inflatable instruments. So I go ask the woman where they are.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

"Fuckers keep breaking them," she says. "Do you know how hard you have to whack an inflatable guitar to pop it?"

MoFo Karaoke is at the Elbow Room every Thursday except Christmas.

—Charmie Gholson

The Ark

316 S. Main
761–1451

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional music almost every night at 8 p.m., Mon–Sat., & 7:30 p.m., Sun. Unless otherwise noted, tickets are sold in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. **Dec. 1: Shelby Lynne.** *See review, p. 41.* Veteran country singer-songwriter from Alabama known for the graceful ease with which her music assimilates R&B, soul, rock, and pop flavors without diluting its country simplicity and directness. Her new CD *Just a Little Lovin'* is an acclaimed collection of freshly reimagined Dusty Springfield covers. Opening act is **The Abrams Brothers,** a young bluegrass-based country trio from Kingston, Ontario. $25. **Dec. 2: Mad Agnes.** Connecticut-based Uncle Bonsai–style pop-folk vocal harmony trio whose repertoire ranges from madrigals and traditional Celtic tunes to originals that are often spiked with a dash of street theater and P. D. Q. Bach zaniness. $15. **Dec. 3: Open Stage.** All acoustic performers invited. Fifteen acts are selected randomly from those who sign up to perform 8 minutes (or 2 songs) each. The most talented and popular Open Stage performers are offered their own evenings at the Ark. $3 (members & students, $2). 7:30–10 p.m. **Dec. 4: Jonatha Brooke.** Quirkily sophisticated, fiercely unconventional pop-folk by this Boston-based singer-songwriter who is also known for her compellingly eccentric guitar playing. Her new CD, *The Works,* is a collection of original settings of previously unheard Woody Guthrie lyrics that was commissioned by Woody's daughter Nora. A favorite with local audiences since her days as a member of the female duo the Story. $22.50. **Dec. 5: Rory Block.** One of the best traditional blues singers around, Block is a deft, exciting finger-picking guitarist, and she sings both traditional and original material in a voice that glides easily between delicate lyrical shadings and powerful declamation. Taj Mahal calls her "very simply the best there is," and she's a longtime local favorite. $15. **Dec. 6: Lucy Kaplansky.** This acclaimed singer-songwriter, a former clinical psychologist, is known for her strong, supple voice and her wryly engaging blues- and country-flavored ballads. "Kaplansky's voice has a tender, vulnerable, confessional quality, and she consistently uses it to her advantage in neatly tailored acoustic settings," says *Washington Post* reviewer Mike Joyce. Her latest CD, *Over the Hills,* is a collection of intimately personal songs exploring lives lived and roads traveled. $17.50. **Dec. 7: Glen Phillips.** The former lead singer of Toad the Wet Sprocket, Phillips is an alt-pop singer-songwriter known for writing guitar-propelled anthems that blend a winning melodicism with an introspective, sometimes wry thoughtfulness. His latest CD, *Mr. Lemons,* features a stripped-back pop-folk sound that *Paste* magazine describes as "a quiet storm that dutifully blends Cat Stevens's confident huskiness and Jackson Browne's weary but warm observer of all things broken." 8 p.m. $20. **Dec. 8: Riders in the Sky.** This innovative, often comical Nashville-based quartet of ace musicians has revitalized the genre of the cowboy song. Inspired by the 1930s group the Sons of the Pioneers, the quartet includes 2 former Ann Arborites, Fred Labour and onetime Herb David staffer Doug Green. They specialize in elaborate harmonizations of cowboy folk songs, western ballads, and sentimental Hollywood versions of the real thing—one of their CDs is a collection of Gene Autry tunes. Their repertoire also includes old-time fiddle pieces, some jazz numbers, virtuoso yodels, comic send-ups of western drama, and rope tricks. Tonight's show is **"Christmas the Cowboy Way."** $20. **Dec. 9: Shawn Colvin.** A highly regarded singer-songwriter who has been compared to Joni Mitchell and Tracy Chapman, Colvin is known for her storytelling flair, pop smarts, and arresting blend of emotional intensity and sardonic wit. Opening act is **Garrison Starr,** a folk-rock singer-songwriter from Nashville. $40. **Dec. 10: Adrian Legg.** This celebrated acoustic guitar virtuoso is a perennial winner of *Guitar Player* magazine's Best Fingerstylist award. Legg's compositions, alternately joyful and soaring or moody and melancholy, offer an elegant, intricate blend of country, jazz, folk, rock, Celtic, and classical idioms, and his work is especially known for his melodic inventiveness. But it is the dazzling, dizzying blend of speed, precision, and witty playfulness in his guitar work that leaves audiences and critics gasping. "To say that Legg is a good player is like saying Menuhin saws a fine fiddle," says one reviewer. His live shows also feature his deadpan humor and hilarious stories—a talent that has landed him a second career as a commentator-at-large on NPR's *All Things Considered.* $17.50. **Dec. 11: Lee Murdock.** Murdock is a Great Lakes troubadour who writes songs about the lives of sailors and fishermen, lighthouse keepers, ghosts, outlaws, and everyday heroes. His music blends ragtime, Irish, blues, and folk styles, and he accompanies himself on 6- and 12-string guitars. Tonight he performs his **"Christmas Ship Concert,"** a family concert commemorating a turn-of-the-19th-century tradition. At the end of the lumber season, Great Lakes captains would carry a final cargo heralding the holiday season with a deck piled high with fresh-cut evergreen trees and garlands. $15. **Dec. 12: RFD Boys.** Authentic bluegrass by these longtime local favorites. They have appeared in numerous festivals and even made the cover of *Bluegrass Unlimited* magazine. Their shows blend top-notch musicianship with funny between-songs dialogue. They have several recordings, including *Live and Unrehearsed,* a 1994 Ark performance. Proceeds benefit the Leslie Science Center, a city parks facility situated on 50 acres of fields, woods, and prairie that provides natural science and environmental education opportunities for kids and their families. $11 at the door only. **Dec. 13: George Bedard, Billy Kirchen, & Sarah Brown.** All-star trio of Ann Arbor–bred roots-rock musicians. Guitar genius Bedard, whose own honky-tonk dance band the Kingpins has been Ann Arbor's virtual house band for more than a decade, is joined by Kirchen, the former lead guitarist of Commander Cody's Lost Planet Airmen, whose own repertoire is a rowdy mix of rockabilly, honky-tonk, blues, swing, and truck-driving songs, and Brown, an Ann Arbor native who in the late 70s moved to Austin, Texas, where she plays in several blues bands and regularly wins the Austin Chronicle award as the city's best bassist. With Jack O'Dell, a drummer who played on Kirchen's *Raise a Ruckus* album. $20. **Dec. 14: "6th Annual Concert for Peace."** Several local folk, rock, and roots bands and singer-songwriters perform their own and others' antiwar and peace songs. Performers TBA. Proceeds benefit Michigan Peaceworks. $20. **Dec. 15: Mississippi Heat.** Vintage 50s-style Chicago blues by this internationally acclaimed band fronted by Inetta Visor, a powerhouse vocalist in the tradition of Etta James and Koko Taylor, and Pierre Lacocque, a Belgian blues harpist known for the subtlety of his solos and his hawklike tonal power. "Once in a blue moon a band like this comes along. Mississippi Heat's got the quality that gives you the gutbucket, gizzard-rip feel with each and every song. You just want to stop whatever the hell important thing you're doing and get down and boogie when these blues jump off those speakers," says *American Harmonica Newsletter* reviewer Rick Shidell. $15. **Dec. 16: Tuck & Patti.** *See review, p. 57.* Virtuosic pop jazz husband-and-wife duo of singer-songwriter Patti Cathcart and guitarist Tuck Andress. Their new CD *I Remember You* is a collection of interpretations of material from the Great American Songbook. $20. **Dec. 17: Teada.** Traditional Irish music by this acclaimed quintet led by fiddler Oisin MacDiarmad that is joined tonight by **Karan Casey,** the former Solas vocalist whom the *Washington Post* calls "the Irish equivalent off Emmylou Harris." *The Irish Examiner* praises the band's music as "sensitive and rollicking in turn, its sense of fun balanced by a sense of responsibility." With accordionist Paul Finn, Sean McElwain on banjo and bouzouki, Tristan Rosenstock on bodhran, and flutist Damien Stenson. $17.50. **Dec. 18: Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band.** Sultry, high-energy calypso and reggae by this popular Trinidad-born, Ypsilanti-based percussion ensemble founded shortly after WW II by Hugh Borde and currently composed of Borde and several members of his family. $15. **Dec. 19: Joel Mabus.** Veteran guitar, banjo, mandolin, and fiddle virtuoso who is also an excellent songwriter, known for his trenchant humor and eclectic "folkabilly" style. "Mabus is everything a modern string player should be—versatile, innovative, tasty, and funny," says Martin Keller of the *Twin Cities Reader.* $15. **Dec. 20: Finvarra's Wren.** Traditional Irish, Scottish, English, and Celtic-American dances and carols by this Detroit-area multigenerational quintet led by singer-guitarist Jim Perkins. Also, Irish step dancing. $15. **Dec. 27 & 28: "Crossroads Ceili."** 2 evenings of Celtic music, song, and dance headlined by **Paddy Homan,** a traditional Irish singer from Cork who now lives in Chicago. Also, Irish Rovers singer **Wallace Hood,** former Pat's People (Belfast) member **Ray McGuire,** 2-time All-Ireland silver medalist fiddler (and Ann Arbor native) **Kelsey Lutz,** the Detroit-based **Gavin Family** ensemble featuring uilleann piper **Sean Gavin,** Michael Flatley Award–winning fiddler **Holland Raper,** flutist **Colleen Shanks,** traditional Irish dancer **Nick Gareiss,** and Dancers from the **Heinzman School of Dance.** $16. 7:30 p.m. **Dec. 31: The Chenille Sisters with the Royal Garden Trio.** The nationally renowned local trio of singer-songwriters Cheryl Dawdy, Connie Huber, and Grace Morand, known for its unbeatable combination of breathtakingly precise and resonant vocal harmonies, joins forces with this local vintage jazz trio led by guitarist Brian Delaney for a program of 30s and 40s jazz and pop standards. The two trios also perform short sets by themselves showcasing their regular repertoires. The Chenille Sisters play an eclectic mix of originals and jazz, swing, blues, and folk standards, and the Royal Garden Trio, which also includes cellist Michael Karoub and clarinetist and tenor guitarist Tom Bogardus, specializes in early jazz standards and Hot Club–style gypsy jazz. $35. 10 p.m.

The B-Side

310 E. Washington **214–9995**

This all-ages venue in the Neutral Zone teen center features a mix of touring, local, and teen bands, usually Sat., 7–10 p.m. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 4: Open Mike.** All poets, writers, rappers, musicians, comics, singers, and other verbal stylists invited. **Dec. 13: "Jazz Night."** With local teen jazz ensembles TBA. The evening concludes with an open jazz jam. 7–11 p.m. **Dec. 19: "DJ Night."** With Neutral Zone and guest DJs TBA. **Dec. 20: Vertual Vertigo.** Underground electronica hip-hop duo from Chicago. Opening acts are the Detroit alternative rock band **Grey Level,** the Grand Rapids grunge trio **The Luminous,** and the Detroit rap-rock quartet **Fissure.**

The Black Pearl

302 S. Main **222–0202**

This seafood and martini bar features live music Mon. & Wed., 6:30–9:30 p.m., & DJ Sun., 9 p.m.–midnight. No cover, no dancing. **Every Mon.: Jody Raffoul.** Detroit pop-rock singer-songwriter who's been described as a hybrid mix of Bono and Bruce Springsteen. **Dec. 3: Laith Al-Saadi.** An

eclectic mix of jazz, blues, R&B, Motown, and pop, including many originals, by a trio led by this local singer-guitarist. **Dec. 10: Chris Genteel & Greg Leonard.** Rock and soul covers by this local acoustic duo. **Dec. 17: Laith Al-Saadi.** See above. **Dec. 24 & 31:** TBA.

The Blind Pig

208 S. First St. 996–8555

This local music club features live music 5 nights a week, with a varied assortment of local and out-of-town rock 'n' roll, blues, reggae, and dance bands, 10:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. (unless otherwise noted). Also, occasional early shows, usually 7–10 p.m. Karaoke on Mon.; closed most Sun. If there's an opening act, the headliner usually goes on stage between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Cover (except "Showcase Night"), dancing. If advance tickets are sold, they are available at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets. **Dec. 2: "Showcase Night."** With 4 different young local bands. **Dec. 3: King Jazzy.** Detroit MC whose music blends hip-hop with elements of reggae and electronica. Opening act is **DJ Rude Dude,** a local hip-hop and reggae DJ. **Dec. 4: John Brown's Body.** Highly regarded 70s-style roots-reggae band from Boston known for its buoyant horn arrangements, delectable harmonies, steady rhythmic pulse, and seductive melodies. Opening act is **Spiritual Rez,** a Boston band whose music blends reggae, funk, and Afrobeat. Advance tickets: $12 ($15 at the door). 9 p.m.–2 a.m. **Dec. 5: Ann Arbor Soul Club.** Classic soul music by the local DJ duo of Brad Hales and Robert Wells. **Dec. 6: Lightning Love.** Local keyboard-driven minimalist pop trio. Opening acts are **Charlie Slick,** a local electro-pop singer-songwriter, and **Friendly Foes,** a Ferndale indie powerpop trio. **Dec. 9: "Showcase Night."** See above. **Dec. 10: The Valley Ghosts.** Garage rock band from Boston. Opening acts are **Pop Songs for People,** a Lake Orion folk-rock trio, and **Royale,** an Ypsilanti rock band. **Dec. 11: Bandalon.** Local rock band. Opening act is **Tokyo SexWhale** (see Club Above). **Dec. 12: Novada.** Veteran Saline rock 'n' roll band. Opening acts are **The Setup,** a local pop-rock quartet, and **Otto Vector,** a Dearborn techno-pop band. **Dec. 13: Tickled Fancy Burlesque Co.** Popular local postpunk burlesque troupe that tonight is celebrating its 2nd anniversary. Opening acts are the local carnival sideshow act **Arson's Blazing Carnival,** the local all-female postpunk avant-jazz quintet **Pussy Pirates,** the Chicago all-female "pink-metal" punk duo **Heart-Shaped Hate,** and the Chicago postpunk trio **Paper Mice. Dec. 16: "Showcase Night."** See above. **Dec. 17: Inkface & the Digital Dream.** Ypsilanti electronica-dub trio. Opening act TBA. **Dec. 18: Gas for Less.** Local alt-country honky-tonk and rockabilly band led by singer-songwriter (and former Lucky Haskins frontman) Ryan Racine. Opening acts are **The Ferdy Mayne** (see Elbow Room) and **Doop & the Inside Outlaws,** an acoustic country-rock band from River Rouge. **Dec. 19: Buff-1.** Popular local hip-hop MC. Opening acts are local hip-hop MC **Now On,** the local hip-hop collective **Athletic Mic League,** and local hip-hop DJs **14KT** and **DJ Graffiti. Dec. 20: Three Blue Teardrops.** Rockabilly/psychobilly garage trio from Chicago. Opening act is **Minor Planets,** a local neo–new wave band. **Dec. 23: "Showcase Night."** See above. **Dec. 26: Sway.** Ypsilanti pop-rock band. Opening acts are the Detroit rock quartet **The Pilz,** the Northville pop-rock band **The Robin Horlock Band,** and the Ypsilanti pop-rock quartet **September On. Dec. 27: Brad Hales and DJ Dez.** DJs spin funk, soul, and Latin records. **Dec. 30: "Showcase Night."** See above. **Dec. 31: The Bang!** Dance party with this local DJ collective that plays garage and 70s rock.

Cavern Club

210 S. First St. 332–9900

This downtown club in the Celebration Cellars basement banquet space features live music on Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, the Millennium Club, a street-level club at the same address, features DJs, 10 p.m.–2 a.m. on most Fri. & Sat. December schedule TBA.

The Circus

210 S. First St. 913–8890

This bar located on the top floor of the Cavern Club building features live music Wed.–Fri., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Thurs.** (except Dec. 25) **& Fri: "Live Rock 'n' Roll Karaoke."** Karaoke with prerecorded rhythm tracks, and live guitars and keyboards by the Hartland trio **Double Take. Dec. 3: Michael Beauchamp.** This local folk-style acoustic postpunk singer-songwriter with a strong, mournful voice is joined by several friends to perform songs from his recent debut CD, *My Northern Voices*. **Dec. 10: The Goldmine Pickers.** Acoustic string quartet from Goshen, Indiana, known for its 3-part vocal harmonies and its inventive blend of bluegrass, jazz, and Celtic influences. **Dec. 17: Winter/Sessions.** Progressive bluegrass with a strong Americana flavor by this Michigan quartet. **Dec. 24 & 31:** Closed.

Club Above

215 N. Main 663–7758

This dance club on the top floor of the Heidelberg restaurant features live music or DJs Tues. & Thurs.–Sun., 9:30 p.m.–2 a.m., and live happy hour bands on Fri., 5:30–8:30 p.m. Also, karaoke on Wed., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover, dancing. Age 21 & over only unless otherwise noted. **Every Mon.: "Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is Mondays."** Hip-hop and freestyle music with **DJ Skee and MC West Knyle. Every Tues.: "College Tuesdays."** DJs play a variety of dance music. No cover. **Every Thurs.** (except Dec. 25)**: "The Mash-Up."** DJ Just-B spins electro, funk, hip-hop, reggae, rock and 80s music. **Every Fri.: Latino Night.** DJ Xcess plays salsa, merengue, reggae, and other Latin dance records. Also, salsa lessons, 9–10 p.m. **Every Sun.:** Dance music with a DJ. **Dec. 5** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: FUBAR.** 6-piece band led by Kingpins bassist Randy Tessier and featuring former Map of the World vocalist Sophia Hanifi. Their repertoire is an eclectic mix of originals by Hanifi and Tessier and covers of everyone from the Everly Brothers, the Kinks, and the Yardbirds to Miles Davis, Steve Earle, and U2. The band has a 4-song minidisk, *Clean House*, an election-year collection that includes 2 originals, a cover of Stephen Stills's 1967 protest classic "For What It's Worth," and an original setting of Auden's 1939 poem "Refugee Song." **Dec. 6: Tokyo SexWhale.** Punk-metal quartet from Ottawa. Opening acts are **Inkface & the Digital Dream** (see Blind Pig) and **Tyler Devos,** a singer-songwriter from Maine who writes wryly humorous, often harshly self-analytical songs about love and other personal themes and whose music draws on a range of influences from Ellis Paul and Vance Gilbert to Wilco and Bog Star. He is accompanied by his band, the **Dry County Boys. Dec. 12** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: Sounds of the Czars.** Local Tiki-flavored surf-rock lounge quartet. **Dec. 13: Groove Spoon.** Local funk dance band. Opening acts TBA. **Dec. 19** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: Mike Smith & the Cadillac Cowboys.** Veteran local country band led by singer-guitarist Smith. **Dec. 20: Ben Daniels Trio.** Rootsy acoustic folk-rock trio from Chelsea led by singer-songwriter and guitarist Daniels. Opening acts TBA. **Dec. 26** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: Drivin' Sideways.** Veteran local band fueled by vocalist Pontiac Pete Ferguson's alternately soulful and ornery vocals. Their country-based repertoire still features lots of classic honky-tonk, but they also cover everything from Chuck Berry and Johnny Burnette to the Beatles and James Brown. The band's guiding presence seems to be Elvis—including both large chunks of his repertoire and his attitude that any music he did suited him just because he did it. The band also includes guitarist George Bedard, bassist Chris Goerke, drummer Mark Newbound, and keyboardist Jim King. **Dec. 27:** TBA.

Common Cup

1511 Washtenaw 327–6914

This coffeehouse run by the University Lutheran Chapel features live music and other entertainment Fri., 8–9 p.m. No cover, no dancing. December schedule TBA.

Conor O'Neill's

318 S. Main 665–2968

Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. (7:30–10 p.m.), Thurs. & Sat. (9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m.), & occasional other nights, and a DJ on Fri., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. Followed at 10 p.m. by karaoke. **Every Thurs.: Jerry Sprague Band.** Roots-rock band led by veteran local singer-guitarist Sprague. **Every Fri.: DJ Big Daddie. Dec. 6: Joshua & Jeremy Sprague.** An eclectic mix of rock covers by Jerry Sprague's 2 sons. **Dec. 13: Michael May & the Messarounds.** Jazz-inflected blues and blues-rock by this veteran local quartet led by vocalist and blues harpist May. **Dec. 20: Kris K Trio.** Local trio led by singer-guitarist Kris Kurzawa that plays jazz, soul, and avant-funk covers and originals. **Dec. 27:** TBA.

Crazy Wisdom Tea Room

114 S. Main 665–9468

This tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music occasional Fri. & Sat., 8:30–10:30 p.m. **Dec. 5: Rock Paper Scissors.** A varied array of covers by the likes of Lucinda Williams, Son Volt, the Rolling Stones, and Robyn Hitchcock by the local duo of Black Train singer-guitarist Vicki Dischler and cellist Tom Lyon. **Dec. 6: Christine and Jon.** Historically accurate renditions of classical American popular songs, ballads, and torch songs by the local duo of vocalist Christine Schinker and pianist Jon Milan. They are sometimes joined by members of the Royal Garden Trio, who are featured on the duo's CD, *High Tea in Tin Pan Alley*. **Dec. 12: Tyler Devos.** See Club Above. **Dec. 13: Jim Smith & Friends.** Local singer-songwriter Smith is joined by vocalist Sophia Hanifi and local acoustic musicians Mike Caswell and Dave Keeney for an evening of country-folk. **Dec. 19: Muruga & Free Funk.** Versatile local worldbeat jam band led by Muruga Booker, a renowned percussionist who has played with the likes of George Clinton, Jerry Garcia, and Weather Report. **Dec. 20: Joe Summers Gypsy Jazz Trio.** This local trio led by guitar virtuoso Summers plays the music of Django Reinhardt, Charlie Christian, and Lenny Breau. With guitarist Chris Moyer and bassist Dave Sharp. **Dec. 26: Sari Brown.** Local singer-songwriter who writes reverent yet unconventional spirituals, late-night traveling songs, and folk-style story songs with poetic lyrics and a strong political sensibility. **Dec. 27:** TBA.

Creekside Grill and Bar

5827 Jackson Rd. 827–2737

The intimate basement bar area of this restaurant in Scio Township features occasional live music. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 28: II-V-I Orchestra.** Veteran local big band, led by saxophonist David Swain, that plays late-1930s swing and 1940s R&B. 6:30–9 p.m.

Dreamland Theater

26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti 657–2337

This downtown Ypsilanti theater, newly relocated from Depot Town, features live music Thurs. & occasional other nights, 9–11 p.m. or later. Cover (usually a donation), no dancing. **Dec. 5: Tanked.** Ohio metal-meets-hardcore noise band featuring lots of strange instrumentation. Opening acts are the Ohio noise band **Outer Space** and the Chicago electronica & percussion duo **Ben Billington & Jason Soliday,** who are accompanied by members of the Chicago industrial noise band Bloody Minded. Also, the local psychedelic noise band **Kults** and the local electronic noise band **New Pledgemaster. Dec. 12: "Noise Night."** With the local noise musicians **Sick Llama,** and **The Stoning,** and **Thom Elliott.** Also, the **DJ Ding Dong Twins** play hip-hop, metal, and more.

Elbow Room

6 S. Washington, Ypsilanti 483–6374

This Ypsilanti tavern features live music and/or DJs Mon.–Thurs., 9 p.m.–1 a.m., and Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, occasional Sun., 8 p.m.–midnight. No cover ($5 suggested donation), dancing. **Every Thurs.** (except Dec. 25)**: "MoFo Karaoke."** *See review, p. 72.* With "the standard karaoke playlist crap plus 2,500+ obscure and awesome songs." **Dec. 2: "Tiki Tuesday."** The Elbow Room Tiki Tuesday band plays surf music and various exotica. Also, performance by the belly dancer **Aurora** and magician **Scarboni. Dec. 3: Hana Malhas.** Local singer-songwriter, originally from Jordan, who writes intimate, thoughtful songs and accompanies herself on piano, guitar, and occasionally violin. Opening acts are **The Ferdy Mayne,** an Ypsilanti folk-rock trio, and **Remote Luxury,** a Detroit acoustic ambient band. **Dec. 5: The New Green.** Local pop-folk octet led by singer-songwriter Steven Clausnitzer that's been compared to the Beatles, Wilco, and Sufjan Stevens. Opening acts are **Your Best Friend,** a Saginaw rock quartet, and **Kaslo,** an Athens, Ohio, folk-rock sextet. **Dec. 6: "Rock and Rummage."** A variety of rummage vendors, with music by **DJ Scarboni. Dec. 7: Old Man Underground.** DJ duo that plays an incendiary mix of garage, punk, hip-hop, indie, metal, glam and rock 'n' roll. **Dec. 9: Direct Hits Mod Club.** DJ collective that plays vintage British pop and soul. **Dec. 10: Jameson Blade.** Pop-folk singer-songwriter from Clarkston. Opening acts are **Adam M. Arscott,** a local singer-songwriter who is part of the alt-country duo Bone Orchard Revival, and **Gi Gi Allyn,** an Ypsilanti acoustic pop-folk duo. **Dec. 12: The Satin Peaches.** Commerce, Michigan, rock 'n' roll quartet. Opening acts are **Wildcatting.** Ypsilanti metal-rock band, and **Dark Dark Dark,** a pop-folk quartet from Minneapolis fronted by singer-

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songwriters Nona Marie Invie and Marshall LaCount. **Dec. 13: Which Way Is Home.** Detroit quartet that plays emo-tinged pop-rock. Opening acts are the Ypsilanti funk-rock trio **Looking for Mammoths,** the New York indie rock band **Finding Fiction,** and the Michigan pop band **Solitary States. Dec. 14: Old Man Underground.** See above. **Dec. 16: "The Cycle."** DJs Blakguts and Joe Vargas spin funk, soul, and indie dance records. **Dec. 17: The Johnny Timbers.** Experimental garage band from Grosse Ile. Opening acts are **Lay of the Cid,** a Grand Rapids postpunk rock trio, and **Trace the Veins,** an Ypsilanti punk-rock quartet. **Dec. 19: The State.** Veteran local hardcore band fronted by the stentorian vocals of singer-poet Preston Woodward. Opening acts are **First Offense,** an Akron punk-rock band, and **Anguish,** a Detroit punk-metal band. **Dec. 20: Dropjaw.** Reunion of this melodic Ypsilanti emocore band. Opening acts are the **Plain Dealers,** the Grand Rapids punk band **Cain Marko,** and the Pinckney indie rock band **Valentine. Dec. 26–28: "Mittenfest III."** A 3-night showcase of more than 25 current and former local bands in a wide spectrum of genres. A benefit for the nonprofit youth tutoring and writing center 826michigan. Advance festival pass: $12 ($5 per day at the door). *Dec. 26 lineup:* the local experimental pop-folk septet **Canada,** the Detroit-area indie pop-rock quartet **Pop Project,** the Brooklyn, New York, indie pop band **Creaky Boards,** the keyboard-driven minimalist pop trio **Lightning Love,** the Grand Rapids ambient folk-rock quartet **Fields of Industry,** Ypsilanti singer-songwriter **Patrick Elkins,** and **This Is Deer Country.** 6 p.m.–2 a.m. *Dec. 27:* the local folk-rock sextet **Great Lakes Myth Society,** the Grand Rapids progressive pop-rock septet **The Mighty Narwhale,** the Detroit electropop glam band **Champions of Breakfast,** the local pop-folk singer-songwriter **Matt Jones,** the Detroit electronica singer-songwriter **Deastro,** the lo-fi country-tinged pop band quintet **Dabenport,** the Detroit pop-soul trio **Prussia,** Ypsilanti art-folk singer-songwriter **Jeremy Freer,** and the Ferndale acoustic folk-rock duo **That's Him! That's the Guy!** 6 p.m.–2 a.m. *Dec. 28:* the Ypsilanti punk-bluegrass octet **Black Jake & the Carnies,** the experimental bluegrass sextet **Frontier Ruckus,** local pop-folk singer-songwriter **Chris Bathgate,** the local country-pop band **Misty Lyn & the Big Beautiful,** the local experimental alt-country and folk-rock band **Drunken Barn Dance,** the local experimental pop-jazz sextet **Halolos,** alt-country-flavored folk-rock singer-songwriter **Jim Roll,** the Brooklyn, New York, pop-folk singer-songwriter **Joseph Patrick Scott,** and jazz-inflected pop-folk singer-songwriter **Emily Bate. Dec. 30: "Club Fit."** Indie rock dance party with DJs Ayron Michael Nelson and Louis P. **Dec. 31: "New Year's Eve Dance Party."** With bands TBA.

The Firefly Club

637 S. Main **665–9090**

Jazz and blues club, named Best Metro Detroit Jazz Club by the *Detroit Free Press,* that recently moved to a new location next to South Main Market. Live jazz Mon., 8 p.m.–midnight; occasional Tues., 8–10 p.m.; occasional Wed., times TBA; Thurs., 8–11 p.m.; Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.–1 a.m.; and Sun., 8:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m. Also, happy-hour music Thurs., 4–7 p.m., and Fri. & Sun., 5–8 p.m. Sun. jazz brunch, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Cover (unless otherwise noted), dancing. **Every Fri.** (5–8 p.m.) except Dec. 19**: Easy Street Swingtet.** Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Paul Klinger. **Every Sun.** (5–8 p.m.)**: Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings.** This local 10-piece big band is one of the few to specialize in the old-time big-band music of the late 1920s and early 1930s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. Arrangements by the renowned early-jazz pianist James Dapogny and tubaist Chris Smith. The rest of the lineup includes 3 saxophonists/clarinetists, 2 trumpeters, a trombonist, a guitarist/banjo player, and a drummer. **Every Sun.: "Elevation."** Funk and hip-hop by DJ Graffiti and other DJs TBA. Also, an open mike session. **Every Mon.: Paul Keller Orchestra.** Award-winning 15-piece big band led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist (and Firefly Club owner) Susan Chastain. Followed at 11 p.m. by a **jazz jam session. Every Thurs.** (except Dec. 24 & 31)**: Los Gatos.** Mambos and cha-chas by this local Latin jazz band that specializes in the music of Cal Tjader, the late San Francisco vibes player who ignited the 1950s mambo craze. Led by drummer Pete Siers, the group also includes vibes player Cary Kocher, bassist Kurt Krahnke, pianist Brian DiBlassio, and percussionist Jonathan Ovalle. Preceded at 7 p.m. by Latin dance lessons ($5 includes cover for the band). 8–11 p.m. **Dec. 5: Mr. B, Steve Nardella, and George Bedard Reunion Concert.** It's been 25 years since these 3 local roots-music luminaries played together as members of the Steve Nardella Band. Since then, each has gone on to make his own mark, Mark "Mr. B" Braun as an internationally renowned exponent of classic boogie-woogie and blues piano, Nardella as the leader of the blues-based Steve Nardella Rock 'n' Roll Trio, and Bedard as a prime force in a succession of superb bands, from the Bonnevilles to Tracy Lee & the Leonards to George Bedard & the Kingpins. They get back together tonight—with additional musicians TBA—for a show that no fan of American vernacular music can afford to miss. This is their 7th almost-annual reunion concert, and earlier ones have drawn packed houses, so get there early, or be prepared to cool your heels standing in line. **Dec. 6: Bruce Katz Band.** Funky, greasy, blues-drenched, New Orleans–inspired R&B by a band led by this Hammond B-3 organist from Boston who teaches a course on the blues at the prestigious Berklee School of Music. "No one would mistake Katz's blues for jazz, but there are elements of jazz to be found on [his 2003 CD] *Mississippi Moan,* in that it occasionally features long solos and sophisticated harmonics not traditionally found on blues albums," says *Bluesreviews* critic Don Fluckinger. Tonight the band celebrates the release of its new CD *Live at the Firefly Club.* **Dec. 9: Lonesome County.** Hard-driving traditional bluegrass by this Michigan quintet, led by singer-guitarist Chad Jeremy, that won the 2006 Renfro Valley Bluegrass Talent Contest. With mandolinist Kevin Frank, banjoist Lee Kaufmann, fiddler Marty Somberg, and bassist Paul Shapiro. 7:30 p.m. **Dec. 12: Paul Keller Orchestra.** See above. Tonight the band celebrates the release of its new holiday CD, *More Christmas Songs for Jazz Lovers.* **Dec. 13 & 19:** Closed. **Dec. 20: "A Swingin' Christmas."** Vintage jump blues and swing music by the renowned San Francisco–based duo of **Steve Lucky & Carmen Getit,** the stage names of former Ann Arborites singer-pianist Steve Wethy (the former frontman of the immensely popular local 80s sextet Blue Front Persuaders) and singer-guitarist Patsy Smith. They are backed tonight by the local trio of bassist Paul Keller, pianist Pete Siers, and saxophonist Keith Kaminski. **Dec. 26: Dobbins, Weed, & Krahnke.** Local jazz ensemble featuring drummer Sean Dobbins, pianist Tad Weed, and bassist Kurt Krahnke. **Dec. 27: Tim Ries.** A Tecumseh native currently living in New York City, this highly regarded young tenor and soprano jazz saxophonist performs tonight in a jazz quartet featuring former Miles Davis bassist Darryl Jones. **Dec. 31:** TBA.

Black Jake & the Carnies are at the Elbow Room Dec. 28.

Goodnite Gracie

301 W. Huron **752–5740**

Martini and cigar bar below Live at PJ's lounge. Live jazz Fri. & Sat., 9:30 p.m.–1 a.m. Also, karaoke on Tues. Cover Thurs.–Sat. only, no dancing. **Dec. 5: Laith Al-Saadi.** See Black Pearl. **Dec. 6: Michael May & the Messarounds.** See Conor O'Neill's. **Dec. 12: Lester Blues.** Local guitar-based blues band. **Dec. 13: Dave Sharp Quartet.** Straight-ahead jazz by this local quartet led by bassist Sharp. **Dec. 19: Laith Al-Saadi.** See Black Pearl. **Dec. 20: Michael May & the Messarounds.** See Conor O'Neill's. **Dec. 26:** Closed. **Dec. 27: Lester Blues.** See above.

Guy Hollerin's

3600 Plymouth Rd. **769–9800**

The restaurant in the North Campus Holiday Inn features music on Fri., 5:30–8:30 p.m., & Sat., 8 p.m.–midnight. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 5: Erich Goebel Band.** Detroit blues and blues-rock quartet led by singer-guitarist Goebel and featuring drummer RJ Spangler, bassist Chris Rummell, and pianist Shawn McDonald. **Dec. 6: Root Doctor.** Lansing quintet led by vocalist Freddie Cunningham that plays a rich, varied blues and R&B repertoire that ranges from ZZ Hill to Billie Holiday to B. B. King to Bobby Blue Bland. **Dec. 12: Bluescasters.** Veteran local blues and blues-rock quartet. **Dec. 13: The Alligators.** R&B and blues band from Detroit. **Dec. 19: The Terraplanes.** Local band led by singer-guitarist Jerry Mack that plays a mix of houserocking blues, uptown swing, soulful R&B, and roots rock. The band has a CD, *Well Tuned.* With guitarist Dave Fero, saxophonist James Morse, keyboardist Jim Merte, bassist Al Kalaf, and drummer Mike Adams. **Dec. 20: Thornetta Davis.** Soulful, rocking Detroit-style R&B by a band led by Davis, a powerful, Etta James–style vocalist. **Dec. 26: George Bedard & the Kingpins.** Superfine honky-tonk dance tunes from swing to vintage blues, country, rockabilly, and early rock 'n' roll classics, with some memorable originals penned by guitar genius Bedard. With drummer Rich Dishman and bassist Randy Tessier. The band has released 3 acclaimed CDs and is working on an all-instrumental CD that includes "Swing Minor 65," Bedard's surf-music adaptation of a Django Reinhardt tune. **Dec. 27: Steve Nardella Rock 'n' Roll Trio.** Ann Arbor's most passionate and compelling roots-rocker performs fiercely cathartic, blues-drenched reworkings of rock 'n' roll and rockabilly classics and obscure gems, along with some authentic Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker blues.

The Habitat Ultralounge

3050 Jackson Rd. **665–3636**

The lounge at Weber's Inn features dance bands Tues.–Thurs., 8:45 p.m.–12:30 a.m., and Fri. & Sat., 8:45 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Also, solo piano by **Tim Knapp** (Tues.–Thurs., Sat., & Sun.) and **Adam Riccinto** (Fri.), 6–8:45 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Mon.: "Monday Groove."** With DJ Mechial White. 7 p.m.–midnight. **Dec. 2–4: Identical Strangers.** Classic rock by the Windsor duo of vocalist Danielle Samson and guitarist Scott Giles. **Dec. 5 & 6: Scoot Magoo.** Allen Park rock 'n' roll quintet. **Dec. 9–11: Compared to What.** Soul trio. **Dec. 12 & 13: Remedy.** Detroit dance band. **Dec. 16–18: Dave Hamilton.** Solo singer-guitarist. **Dec. 19 & 20: Ultraviolet.** Detroit band that plays 70s & 80s rock hits. **Dec. 23: Herbie Russ.** Solo saxophonist. **Dec. 26 & 27: Mr. Fabulous.** Detroit 70s & 80s rock 'n' roll cover band formerly known as X-Factor. **Dec. 30: "Dance Night."** DJ TBA plays dance records. **Dec. 31: Scoot Magoo.** See above. Also, in the ballroom, **The George Brothers,** a Detroit rock 'n' roll band.

The Halfass

Church St. entrance to East Quad **764–8558**

Informal student-dominated cafe, also known as the Halfway Inn. Occasional live music, 9 p.m.–1 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 12: Tyvek.** Detroit postpunk rock quintet. Opening acts are **Charlie Slick** (see Blind Pig), and **Silverghost,** a Detroit-area pop-rock band.

Live at PJ's

102 S. First St. **752–5740**

This jazz lounge features live music and DJs Thurs.–Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Karaoke on Mon. Cover, dancing. **Every Thurs. "Throwback Thursdays."** DJ spins old-school dance records. **Dec. 5: "Dance Night."** With DJ Dav. **Dec. 6: "Dance Night."** With DJ D. Rex. **Dec. 12: "Dance Night."** With DJ Chris Sink. **Dec. 13: "Grooveleague."** With DJ Daraja. **Dec. 19: "Dance Night."** With DJ Nick Mixwell. **Dec. 20: "Dance Night."** With a DJ D. Rex. **Dec. 26:** Closed. **Dec. 27: "Dance Night."** With DJ Nick Mixwell.

Melange Subterranean Bistro

314 S. Main **222–0202**

The lounge in this downtown restaurant features live music or DJs Thurs.–Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Thurs.: Lucas Paul Band.** Local quartet led by pop-rock singer-songwriter Paul. **Every Fri.: DJ Zu.** With a variety of dance music. **Every Sat.: "The Groove-Matist."** Retro, Top 40, and hip-hop dance party with DJ Mechial White.

The Necto

516 E. Liberty **994–5436**

This popular dance club features local and national DJs 4 nights a week, Mon. & Thurs.–Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover (Thurs.–Sat. after 10 p.m. only), dancing. **Every Sun.: "Vision Sunday."** Guest DJs spin house and techno records. **Every Mon.: "Factory."** DJ Jinx spins industrial, goth, and synth pop records. Also, drum 'n' bass records with DJ Bassline in the Red Room. **Every Thurs.: "College Night."** DJ Hardy spins Top 40 and hip-hop records. **Every Fri.: "Pride."** DJ Jaces spins high-energy dance tunes in the main room. In the downstairs Red Room, DJ Mark plays retro music videos and DJ John G spins Top 40 records. In the blue room, DJ Mike spins techno records. **Every Sat.: "Frequency."** In the main room DJ Hardy plays Top 40 and dance music records.

Old Town

122 W. Liberty **662–9291**

This downtown corner bar features live music Sun. & occasional other nights, 8–10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. The performers are usually accompanied by various drop-in friends. **Dec. 7: Jen Sygit.** Young Michigan singer-songwriter and guitarist known for her bluesy lyrics, down-home music, and sultry vocals. **Dec. 14: Chad Williams.** Local country-folk singer-songwriter. **Dec. 21: John Latini.** Acoustic rock-based originals by this veteran local rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter. **Dec. 28: The Hummingbirds.** Twang-filled country and American roots music by the duo of singer-songwriters and acoustic guitarists S. G. Wood and Rachel Lynn, the winners of a Detroit Music Award as Best Country Band who recently relocated from Ann Arbor to Tampa.

Oz's Music Environment

1920 Packard **662–8283**

This storefront next to Oz's music store features live music Tues., Thurs., & occasional other nights, 7:30–9:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). Cover, no dancing. **Dec. 2: "Songwriters Open Mike."** All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. **Dec. 9: "Anything Goes Open Stage & Song Circle."** All musicians invited. Hosted by Laura MacKimmie. **Dec. 16: "Originals Only Open Stage."** All acoustic musicians invited. Hosted by Oz, aka Steve Osburn. Advance sign-up required. **Dec. 23: "AASC Blues Highway 101."** Mickey Richard and Sue Nordman host a mostly acoustic blues jam session. All musicians invited.

The Quarter Bistro

300 S. Maple **929–9200**

This west-side restaurant features live music Thurs. & Fri., 6–9 p.m., and Sat., 7–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Fri.: The Groove-Matist.** See Melange. **Every Sat.: Mike Moore.** Jazz guitarist. **Every Thurs.: Steven Springer.** Roots-rock, reggae, dancehall, and calypso by this former Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band singer-guitarist, winner of 4 consecutive Detroit Music Awards for Best Guitar Player. Some weeks, Springer is joined or replaced by jazz pianist **John Hobart.**

Rick's American Cafe

611 Church **996–2747**

This campus-area club features DJs Tues & Thurs.–Sat., 10 p.m.–1:30 a.m., with a set by a live band on Fri., 10–11:30 p.m. Large dance floor. Dancing, cover. **Every Tues., Thurs., & Sat.: DJ Equinox.** DJ spins dance records **Every Fri.:** Live bands TBA, followed by **DJ Sneak.** ■

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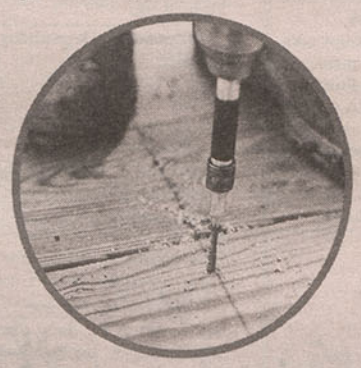

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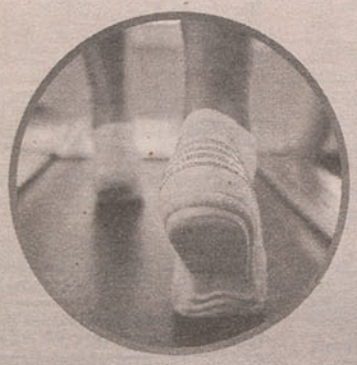

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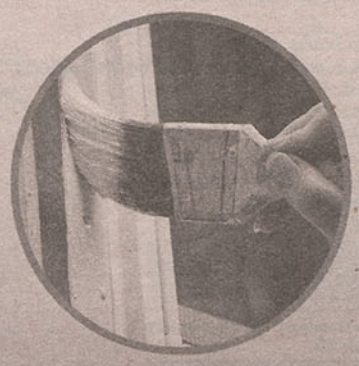

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Ann Arbor Observer

For Services Advertising Information, Call Danielle Robillard at 734-769-3175

Classifieds

Employment

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

PROJECT ASSISTANT
Wanted part time for interesting work: research, writing, filmmaking, and other areas; flexible hours, good pay. Send response to: Project Assistant, P.O. Box 6052, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-6052.

Café Japon is looking for reliable, professional, and experienced servers and kitchen staff. Call (734) 332–6200 or apply in person, 113 E. Liberty. Ask for Miyoko.

For Sale

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

Entertainment

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

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Elegant music featuring flute, violin, and cello. Call (734) 996–0303.

Wanted

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

Lessons & Workshops

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

PIANO LESSONS, AGE 5 & UP
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SPECIAL RETREAT: Four Buddhist teachers. Sat., 12/13/2008, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., $35. Jewel Heart Center, 1129 Oak Valley Dr., Ann Arbor, (734) 786–7319, http://www.deepspring.org/dharmawithin.pdf.

Miscellaneous

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

I SPY CONTEST
Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 95? If you can, you could win a copy of Jonathan Marwil's *A History of Ann Arbor.* One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, December 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, AA 48104. Fax: 769–3375; email: backpage@aaobserver.com (include address and phone number and put I Spy in the subject line).

Buddy Up! Two Losers will WIN. Bring a friend, compete with other duos and lose weight for cash! $44 fee ($22 each) goes into the pot for the pair that loses the most weight! More people = more cash, so bring your coworkers/church/club to grow the pot. Sign up NOW for the January competition. (734) 255–2697.

Services

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Computer Setup & Support, Home & Small Business. Call Tom, (734) 662–3537.

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Insurance and estate tax valuations on your personal property by qualified appraiser. Please call:
Jan Hack, (734) 663–5310.

Business Services

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

Health

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Real Estate

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

For Rent

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Large bedroom, separate entrance. Share laundry, kitchen, bathroom. Female, no smoking. Barbara, (734) 761–6243.

Vacation Rental

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Real Estate Services

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Personals

Personals Key

A=Asian
B=Black
C=Christian
D=Divorced
F=Female
G=Gay
H=Hispanic
H/WP=Height & Weight Proportionate
ISO=In Search Of
J=Jewish
✍=Letters
LTR=Long Term Relationship
M=Male
ND=Nondrinker
NS=Nonsmoker
☎=Phone Calls
P=Professional
S=Single
W=White

Women Seeking Men

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

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(900) 226–8978
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone.
$1.95/min.

Midlife goddess, 47, tall-ish, fit, loves life. Let's enjoy Ann Arbor and beyond . . . meet for coffee, tea, tapas, wine? ☎5784✍

Looking in A2. Attractive, educated, 70-year-old **SF,** seeking companionship and more. ☎5783✍

Slim, healthy, thoughtful, liberal, doc-level educated A2 woman ISO a good man/-partner, early 50s, NS. ☎5781✍

Hiking, biking, traveling, dining, and reading. **DWPF,** 60, active, attractive. Seeks DWPM, 59–69, happy, delightful, sensitive, and honest, to share interests, for companionship, good times, and more. ☎5779✍

Boomer babe who hasn't lost touch with her Inner Girl. Into music, travel, books, keeping fit. Seeks honest man, 54–65, who is wise, witty, and warm. ☎5778✍

Looking for my special man. I'm 43, brown hair, brown eyes. I enjoy dancing and going to concerts. Let's have some fun! ☎5711✍

Down on your luck? Many women but no chemistry? This pretty minx with personality plus might just fit the bill. ISO DWPM, NS, 50–60, to ride in my air balloon. ☎5762✍

Positively "seasoned," 56 years young, **DWPF.** Slender, caring, affectionate partner. New to area. ISO uplifting, easy companionship/relationship. NS please. ☎5776✍

Educated, foreign-born American, **SWF,** NS, ND, ISO educated, healthy, honest gentleman in early 70s. ☎5668✍

Ready for romance? **SWPF** seeks bright, caring SWPM for LTR. Must love animals. Serious replies only. ☎5774✍

SWF, young 70, 125 lbs., 5'3", attractive. Enjoys dancing, movies, travel, etc. ISO NS healthy gentleman/partner in his 60s to early 70s for LTR. ☎5767✍

Pretty nature lover, 5'7", 132 lbs., long curly hair, blue eyes. Into yoga, music, raw food, and laughing. Loyal, honest, and giving. Into rocks, minerals, birds, and life. ☎5761✍

Loving, caring, attractive, young-looking 5'6", 125 lbs. **AF** loves music, books, travel, dogs, cooking, healthy living. ISO SW/AM, NS, ND, 67–75, sincere, LTR. ☎5764✍

SHF, 33, plus size, ISO SW older teddy bear type. Enjoy music, movies, sports, outdoors, candlelit dinners, music, travel, much more. Looking for very serious relationship. ☎5750✍

Unencumbered **DWPF** (think Bette Midler) ISO emotionally and financially secure S/DWPM, 35–50+, for adventure, hot monogamy, and more. Friends first. ☎5752✍

SWF, educated, professional, ISO SWPM, 52–65. NS, no tattoo. LTR and possible marriage. ☎5727✍

We do what I want. Queen ISO uxorious S/DWM, 38–60, for Chicago, up north, fireplaces. **SWPF,** 40s, bossy, sensual. For friendship and possible LTR. ☎5729✍

Seeking marriage and family, 40-ish female, no kids, never married, likes pets, home renovation, and new experiences. Serious and sincere only please. ☎5707✍

Slim **PBF,** 50s and fit. Likes movies, dance. No dependents. ISO SPM, 50 to 60, NS, fit. LTR. ☎5693✍

DWCF, 53, NS, with everything but the guy! Happy with my life, ISO the right man to share it with. ISO D/S, WCM, 40s to 50s, NS. Enjoy simple pleasures, simple lifestyle. ☎5680✍

Men Seeking Women

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18 or older. Touch-Tone phone.
$1.95/min.

Want to drown in love? Let's travel, have fun, and get married. Tall, trim **SWM,** 47, ISO youthful, intelligent SWF. Must love animals and great conversations. ☎5782✍

Smart, funny, interesting educator-turned-carpenter-turned-semi-retired **SWM,** 51, loves cats and music, seeks liberal woman, 45–55, for dating and friendship, LTR. ☎5780✍

Educated, bank employed, great kisser, Asian widower in good shape, lives alone, enjoys fitness, walks, movies, soaps, cuddles, cooking. Seeks SF, 40–50, for LTR. ☎5773✍

SWM, 58, gray teddy bear, seeks a honey for chess, jazz, BBQs, and more. ☎5775✍

SM, 75, NS, seeking female, 65–75, for friendship and more. ☎5765✍

What does it take for a great connection? Fun, values, and appearance. I'm 60 years old; very contemporary guy. You should be a liberal and a great kisser. ☎5687✍

A carrier pigeon is flying . . . a middle-aged multilingual Asian man is appearing . . . ☎5759✍

Singles player, 58, game for a good-humored doubles partner for a set of tennis or possible match. ☎5744✍

Tennis player, film lover, **SWPM,** 5'11", fit, 50. ISO artistic, possibly athletic SWF for LTR. ☎5715✍

DWM, 59, 5'7", ISO good-looking woman, 120–140 lbs., SWF, 45–55, LTR, NS. Loves movies and motorcycle trips. Loves being spoiled. ☎5679✍

Time for a change? **SWPM,** 49, 5'8", fit, introspective, with no dependents, seeking fit SWPF, 35–50, who is flexible, fun, and curious. ☎5704✍

21 things you want in a lover—the song describes me well. **SWM,** 46, healthy, happy, and a Green Builder. Hope to meet a fun, active SF to share life with. ☎5655✍

DWM, 70 years young, 195 lbs., 5'11", attractive, home-centered. Enjoys music, movies, travel. ISO slender A, H, or WF for LTR. ☎5689✍

Educated, fit **DWPM** loves dancing, the outdoors, the symphony. ISO thin, elegant woman, 39–47, who is positive on relationships. ☎3031✍

Friendships

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

PERSONAL CALL
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You know *The Secret* (R. Byrne) and seek friends who do, too. For spiritual support, friendship, and fun. I am F, you are M/F of any age. ☎5777✍

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Men Seeking Men

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General Personals

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Responses are forwarded for $3 per letter. Put each letter in its own envelope with the box number and sufficient first-class postage on the front. Do not put your return address on the individual envelopes, but be sure to include your contact information inside the letter if you wish to receive a reply. Mail all response letters (in a larger envelope) to the Observer; include a check for $3 per response made payable to:
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Upper Ranch with 10'Ceilings!
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2 BR plus flex room. 2 baths. Deluxe kitchen with large breakfast bar. White Bay cabinets. Peaceful setting with lovely views of tree-lined commons.

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Above: Plymouth Green Crossings offers stylish loft living above a convenient community of shops and eateries. One- and two-level two-bedroom fully appointed lofts feature superior energy efficiency, deluxe kitchens and baths, peaceful views, attic storage, and elevator access from the garage. From the $270s. Julie Svinicki 734.358.7700, jsvinicki@surovell.com; Jeff Hartlep, 734.709.5500, jhartlep@surovell.com.

Photo by J. Adrian Wylie

Real Estate One

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NW ANN ARBOR – This gorgeous, custom-built home by Henry Landau rests on a 8+ acre country estate. Grounds include extensive landscaping, circle drive, and outbuilding. Home is rock solid with an all-brick exterior. Interior features include two-story living room, striking dining room with barrel ceiling, custom kitchen, dream master suite and finished walk-out basement. $1,295,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

DIXBORO FARMS – Stunning 4-bedroom, 4-bath new construction on a gorgeous 2-acre estate lot in this popular NE Ann Arbor neighborhood. Quality features everywhere including all brick exterior, cherry kitchen with granite counters, extensive custom molding and trim, luxury first-floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. $925,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR – Truly spectacular 5-bedroom, 5 ½-bath custom-built home resting on an a stately 2.2 acre parcel just west of town. This home features every conceivable amenity including dream kitchen with maple cabinets and professional grade appliances, two-story family room, cherry trim and floors, luxury master suite, smart house technology, Gunite pool, 5-car garage space, and more. $899,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

GLENNBOROUGH – This stately, custom-built 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath home rests on one of the finest lots in the neighborhood. Home has incredible presence set far back from the street with extensive landscaping, flowing stream, and pond frontage. Interior features wonderful contemporary flair with two-story great room, cherry kitchen with granite counters, first-floor master suite with sitting room, and finished walk-out basement. $799,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BARTON HILLS AREA – New construction just minutes from downtown Ann Arbor and U of M. This 5-bedroom, 3½-bath home on a peaceful 1.5 acre parcel features wonderful oversized rooms, ample hardwood floors, custom kitchen with professional grade appliances, luxury master suite. $519,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – Custom-built 4-bedroom, 2½-bath home on a quiet cul-de-sac in one of the area's most desired subs. Incredible lot borders trees and a stream with oversized patio and extensive landscaping. Gorgeous interior features large great room with vaulted ceiling, gourmet kitchen, spacious first-floor master suite, and finished basement. $475,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STRAWBERRY LAKE – This 5-bedroom, 3½-bath home rests on one of the finest lake front settings you will find anywhere. Enjoy gorgeous bluff top views from the large deck and year-round sun room of one of the area's best all-sports lakes. Home features substantial updates including cherry kitchen with Corian counters, all new baths with granite, fresh paint, and finished walkout basement. $469,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

YORK WOODS – Incredible 4-bedroom, 3-bath custom-built ranch overlooking the lake in one of Saline's most desired subs. Incredible lot featuring dense woods, extensive landscaping, deck, patio, and screened porch overlooking the water. Stunning interior with wonderful space throughout. Great room with water view, spacious kitchen, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. $469,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

WATERWAYS – Incredible 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath colonial on a quiet, wooded cul-de-sac deep within the neighborhood. Wonderful setting with large backyard, large deck, and professional landscaping. The interior of this home has been completely redone. Features include remodeled cherry kitchen with granite counter tops, extensive hardwood floors, luxury master suite, and beautifully finished lower level. Saline Schools. $409,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BRASS CREEK – This custom-built home rests on one of the most beautiful sites you will find. Gorgeous acre lot with extensive landscaping, treed backyard, deck, and patio. Interior is sharp with two-story great room, den, open kitchen with granite island, first-floor master suite, and finished walk-out basement. $399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Are you looking for a GORGEOUS wooded setting just minutes to Ann Arbor and I-94? This is it!! Enjoy the complete seclusion and privacy of this 2.1 acre wooded setting. The 3-bedroom, 2-bath home features great room with vaulted ceiling, spacious oak kitchen, study loft, and private master suite. $399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

LAUREL GARDENS – Highly desired 2-bedroom, 2 ½-bath condo in NE Ann Arbor's most desired condo complex. Great location and setting deep within the neighborhood backing to trees and natural area. Interior features formal living and dining, flex use den/tv room, and master suite with two walk-ins and luxury bath. $349,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – Super sharp 3-bedroom, 3-bath condo in Stonebridge overlooking the #8 fairway. This unit is gorgeous featuring open living room with 10-ft. ceiling, sun porch overlooking the course, master suite with vaulted ceilings, and finished basement with view out windows. $279,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

GRASS LAKE – This 4-bedroom, 3½-bath former builder's model home in Sandhill Estates is loaded with quality upgrades. Great design featuring two-story foyer, open great room, large kitchen with island, first-floor master suite with sitting area, and three-car garage. $279,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MANCHESTER – This custom-built 3-bedroom, 2-bath ranch on almost 11 pastoral acres is close to perfect. Custom-built by Don Gaddes, this home was built with extreme attention to energy efficiency and indoor air quality. Wonderful home with large great room, maple kitchen, nice master suite, and mostly finished basement with view out windows. $275,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR – This is not your typical Ann Arbor ranch. Backing to Pioneer woods, this home has been completely remodeled and expanded. Perfect for a single person or a couple, this home features a huge master suite overlooking the woods with upgraded bath, the backyard is all deck with sitting areas and complete privacy, finished basement, and more. $269,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MARKET UPDATE

We are in the middle of one of the most confusing and troubling economic situations in our lifetime. The events of the past months have affected us all in negative way. However, I have encountered many people who mis-understand the current Real Estate Market in Ann Arbor. Here are some truths to know and understand:

HOMES ARE SELLING – Through the end of October more homes have sold in 2008 than in the same period in 2007. In addition, the number of homes coming for sale has reduced drastically, 25% fewer year to date. Many of my listings are selling. I offer maximum advertising exposure for my listings.

MORTGAGE MONEY IS AVAILABLE – The current banking crisis does not include money available for home loans. Anyone with a job, decent credit, and a down payment can get a mortgage. My preferred lenders are ready to help. I offer full buyer agency services.

If you are considering buying or selling a home, choosing an experienced Real Estate Professional is your first and most important step. I am successfully helping my clients complete real estate transactions in this market. I'd be glad to help you as well. Call me today, 734-476-7100.

Matt Dejanovich

Matt Dejanovich has been a resident and realtor in Ann Arbor and its surrounding communities for over 20 years. In that time he has become one of the top producing agents at Real Estate One, the largest real estate brokerage in the state. Matt prides himself on providing personal, direct service to each and every one of his customers.

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COLLEGE HEIGHTS – Stunning 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home built in 2006 walking distance to UM Central Campus and UM hospitals. Gorgeous home featuring custom kitchen with upgraded stainless steel appliances and granite, family room with built-ins, luxury master suite, and finished basement. $799,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR – This gracious 5-bedroom, 4-bath custom-built colonial rests on a peaceful 2.2 acre setting just minutes from town. Incredible features include two-story foyer and family room, custom kitchen with granite counter tops, oversized master suite with dream closet, and finished basement. You will love it! $749,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

DEXTER – Your own private estate backing to Peach Mountain. This incredible property is loaded with many unique and top quality amenities. Five-bedr oom, 3½-bath custom-built home features soaring ceilings, upgraded materials, and finished walkout basement. Second detached 3-car garage with apartment above is perfect for cars, boat, hobbies, etc. $599,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

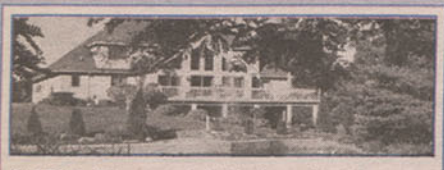
SALINE – Incredible custom-built home on a gorgeous 10-acre estate parcel just minutes from town. The land is absolutely beautiful with ample trees, river frontage, and upgraded out building. Interior features include two-story great room, custom kitchen with granite counters and professional grade appliances, all hardwood floors, and luxury master suite. $569,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

PINCKNEY – Gorgeous 4-bedroom, 3-bath custom-built home with 90 ft. of frontage on Highland Lake. This home is just paradise with panoramic views of lake and 11,000 acres of state owned land. The interior is loaded featuring oversized great room, maple kitchen with granite, and dream master suite. $469,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP – This 4-bedroom, 3-bath custom-built home rests in your own private wooded oasis. Incredible home inside and out including 8-car garage space in two outbuildings, one with finished office space. The interior of this home has been completely renovated with all first class amenities. Maple kitchen with granite counter tops, new baths, cherry floors, great room with vaulted ceiling, and luxury master suite. $449,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – This custom-built 4-bedroom, 3-bath detached condo rests on the finest lot in Stonebridge. Enjoy panoramic views of the large pond, twin islands, and #17 fairway from the large deck, screened porch, or brick paver patio. Wonderful interior amenities include cherry kitchen, great room with 10 ft. ceiling, den, great master suite, and finished walkout basement. $445,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – LOHR LAKE VILLAGE – Incredible 4-bedroom, 2-full and 2-half bath home overlooking the ponds and open space in one of Saline School's most desired subs. The lot is gorgeous with extensive landscaping, large deck, and patio. Completely updated interior featuring extensive hardwood floor, granite on all counters, large kitchen, open family room, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. $429,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



SALINE – This custom-built 3-bedroom, 3-bath home rests on one of the most beautiful settings you will find anywhere. Incredible backyard view with fully developed pond including large deck, extensive patios, and gorgeous landscaping. The interior is sharp including great room with vaulted ceiling and two-story fireplace, spacious kitchen with Corian counters, first-floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. $329,900 **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – CENTENNIAL FARMS – This 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath colonial is just perfect. Hard to find home in one of Saline School's most desired subs. Great lot located deep in the neighborhood is walking distance to Harvest Elementary and Saline High School. Gorgeous interior features maple kitchen with oak hardwood floor, open family room, first-floor den, luxurious master suite, and large bedrooms. $329,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – STONEBRIDGE – This 2-bedroom, 2-bath detached condo features one of the best golf course views you'll find. Incredible tee-to-green view of the #8 hole at Stonebridge. The interior of this unit has been completely redone. Features include maple kitchen cabinets with granite counter tops, Brazilian cherry floors, and stainless steel appliances, new master bath, and partially finished basement. $289,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

WILDWOOD – This perfectly maintained and upgraded 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath colonial in one of Saline's most desired subs has all the features you've been hoping for. Gorgeous lot backing to woods includes extensive landscaping, large deck, and patio. The interior is perfect featuring open kitchen with granite, large family room, nice master suite, and finished walkout basement. $284,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SILO RIDGE - Perfect 3-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial on a quiet one acre cul-de-sac lot. Wonderful setting with spacious backyard, extensive landscaping, and large deck. Interior features open family room, first-floor den, nice kitchen, and spacious master suite. $269,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

GRASS LAKE – Super sharp 3-bedroom, 2-bath ranch on 10 gorgeous acres just minutes to I-94. This is not your typical "cornfield" lot. Enjoy wonderful privacy and views of nature on this mostly wooded site. Home features spacious living room, eat-in kitchen, formal dining, and nice master suite. $259,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

OLD WEST SIDE – Walk to downtown Ann Arbor from this classic Old West Side 3-bedroom, 1-bath two-story home. Washtenaw Diary and Jefferson Market are just blocks away as well. Great home at a great price featuring extensive hardwood floors, large living room, spacious formal dining room, updated kitchen, and good sized bedrooms. $249,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BURNS PARK – Super charming 3-bedroom, 1-bath two-story home in one of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods. Great price for this move-in condition home on a quiet tree lined street. Interior features extensive hardwood floors, custom décor, large living room with fireplace, and formal dining. Spacious backyard. $249,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR – Hard to find 2-bedroom, 2-bath handyman special on a wooded 1.5 acre lot on Huron River Dr. Great opportunity for fix up, major addition, or tear down of this ranch style home on Ann Arbor's west side. Great location just minutes to downtown and U of M. $249,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

FORD LAKE FRONTAGE - Enjoy panoramic bluff top views of Ford Lake from this remodeled and expanded 3-bedroom colonial. Lake front living at its finest with multiple decks and patios and a gorgeous all-sports lake. Home features added family room with vaulted ceiling and hardwood floor, central kitchen, spacious master bedroom, and finished basement. $249,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP – Your own country oasis awaits you at this move-in condition 3-bedroom, 2½-bath home. Enjoy the gorgeous park-like setting just minutes from everything. This home is perfect and features living room with vaulted ceiling, family room with fireplace, and nice master suite. Gorgeous!! $229,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

GRASS LAKE – Wonderful 3-bedroom, 2-bath ranch on pastoral 6.8 acre parcel just minutes to I-94. Perfect setting with great privacy, large deck, and pole barn. Interior features great room with vaulted ceiling, open kitchen, formal dining room, large master suite with walk-in closet, and large basement. $229,999. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MAPLEWOOD FS – This super sharp 3-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial has been completely updated over the past three years. Perfect move-in condition home features large living room, spacious kitchen, great lot with deck, nice master suite, and finished basement. You will love it. $219 ,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

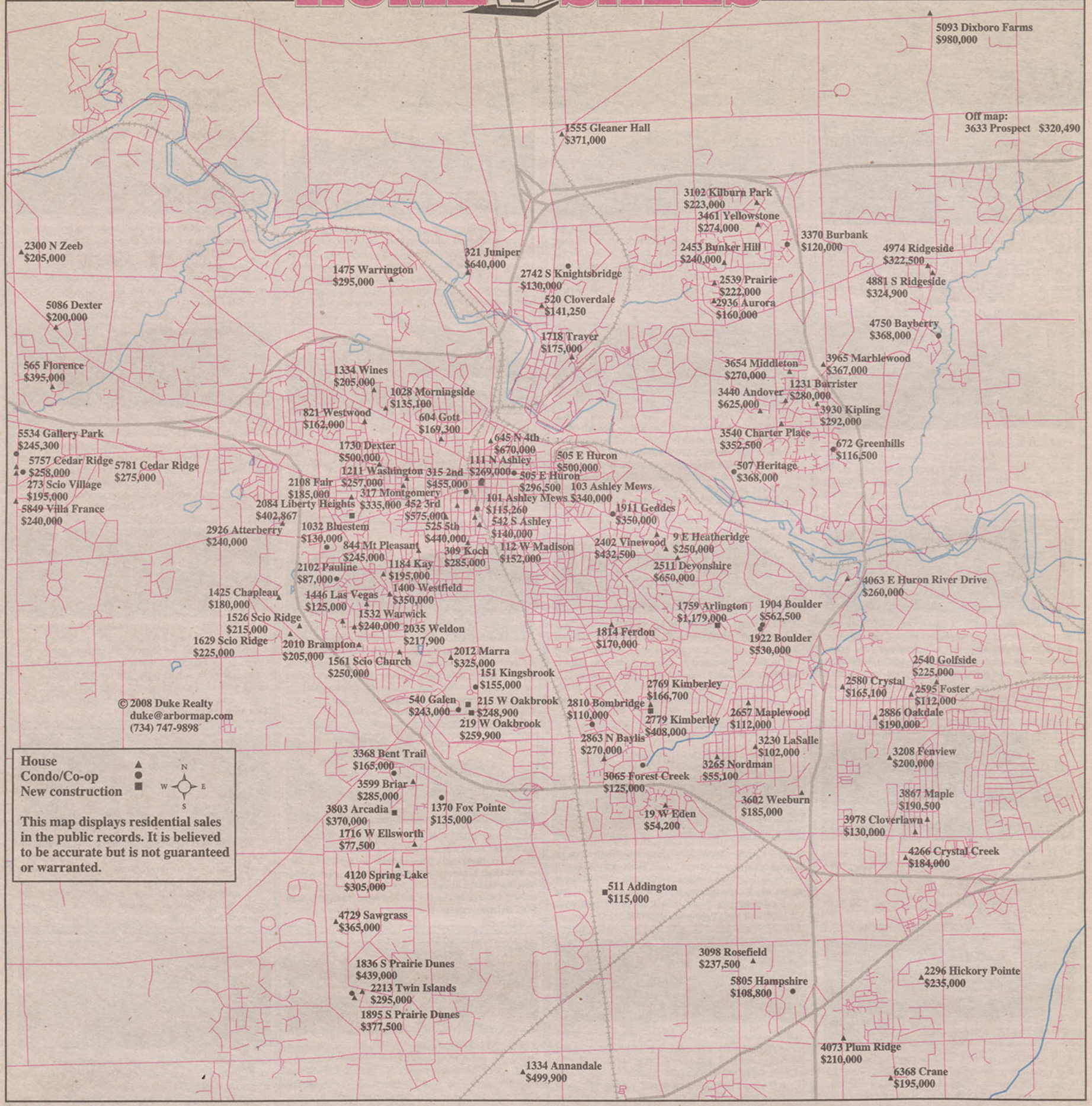
NEW LISTING –WILDWOOD COMMONS - This perfect, move-in condition 2-bedroom, 2-bath detached condo rests well within the community. You will love the spacious, open floor plan and very tasteful décor. Great room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, open kitchen with bar seating, large master suite, and guest room/den. $199,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR – Great 3-bedroom, 1-bath ranch home walking distance to UM hospital, lower town, and downtown Ann Arbor. This home is in perfect move-in condition and features large backyard, one car garage, and neutral décor throughout. $169,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

EBERWHITE –Rock solid 3-bedroom, 1-bath brick ranch on one of the most desired streets in town. Nicely remodeled home with newer maple kitchen, windows, and roof. Home features large living room, open floor plan, and full basement. $159,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

OCTOBER 2008

HOME SALES



Single-Family Home Sales

Jan.–Oct. 2008 Size (sq. ft.)	Sales	Avg. Price	Sq. Ft. Avg.	'07–'08 Gain/Ft.
600-999	100	$154,000	$174	-11%
1,000-1,249	139	$187,000	$167	-11%
1,250-1,499	97	$219,000	$160	-5%
1,500-1,749	79	$263,000	$162	2%
1,750-1,999	90	$266,000	$141	-4%
2,000-2,499	84	$310,000	$140	-18%
2,500-2,999	39	$415,000	$155	1%
3,000+	32	$660,000	$183	1%
Citywide	660	$258,000	$159	-8%

Analyzing the housing market for any sign of a turnaround tempts us to torture the stats until they say things we want to hear. So when we examined a breakdown of 2008's single-family home sales within the city limits and compared it to records for the first ten months of 2007, we were pleased to find three categories that had stopped falling in value.

The chart at left uses a yardstick that factors in home size. Notice that homes of 1,500–1,749 square feet actually increased their selling price per square foot almost 2 percent in the last year. And homes of 2,500–2,999 square feet and those over 3,000 square feet stopped falling in value too. Compared to where we were in 2005, we've lost a lot of ground. But compared to 2007, some categories appear to have stabilized.

Are these signs that Ann Arbor has hit bottom? It is too soon to tell, of course, given that auto manufacturers continue to slip and slide down the icy economic road. And average (mean) prices are notoriously more volatile than midpoint (median) values. But any hint of a turnaround seems like a reason to celebrate—even while those who own homes in the categories that continued to lose value wish for better news. Consider homes measuring 2,000–2,499 square feet: with losses so precipitous in this category, owners can only hope that in this case, the statistics are exaggerating.

—Kevin Duke

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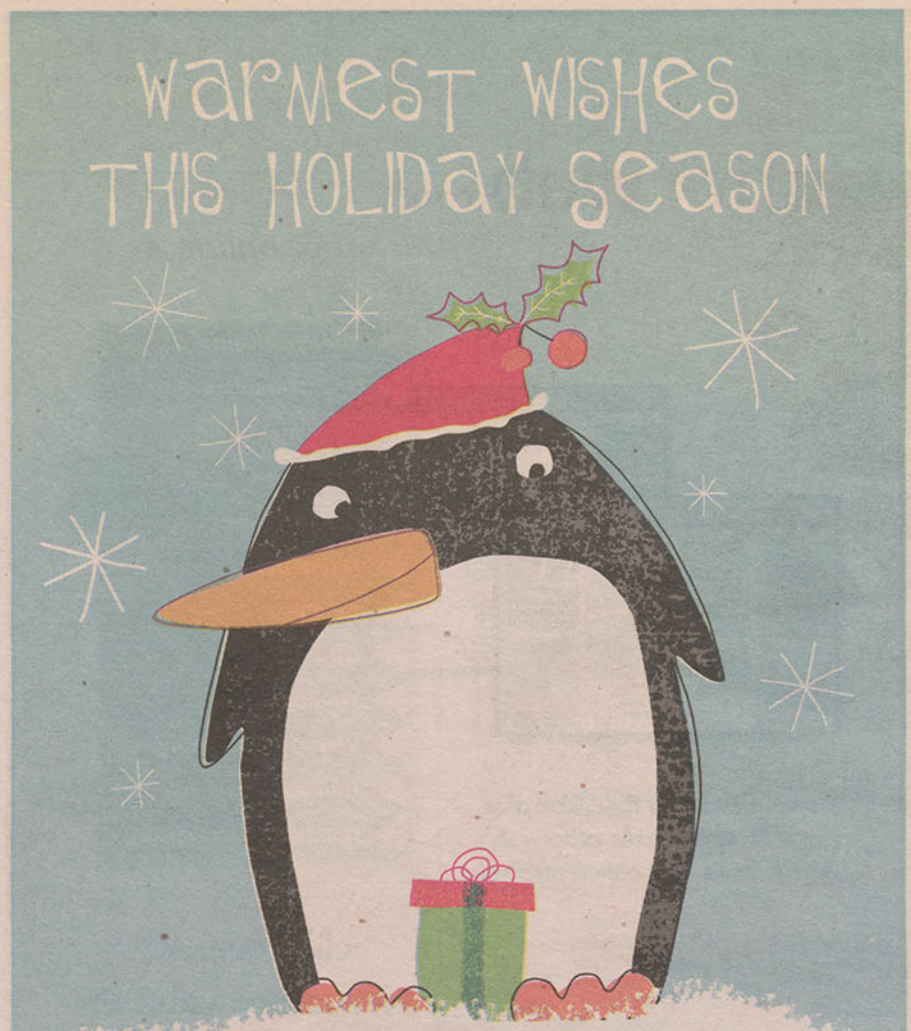

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Marketplace Changes

by Tony McReynolds & Sally Mitani

Blue Tractor

Cold beer drinkers, this pub's for you

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

At the Blue Tractor, manager Dan Glazer (left) and co-owner Greg Lobdell serve their hand-crafted, American-style brews well chilled.

A few days before the **Blue Tractor** opened, while the floors were being polished and the tractor parts being hung on the walls, brewmaster Fred Rouse was offering anyone in sight a sip from a beaker of sludgy tan liquid that was turning into Bumper Crop pale ale. "Taste the grapefruit notes," he urged.

Most brewpubs are modeled after British pubs, and they serve what many Americans—either overtly or secretly—think of as warm beer. The fruity ales favored by Grizzly Peak and Arbor Brewing Company need that mellower temperature to bring out the complex flavors. The Blue Tractor, though, specializes in hoppier, more astringent lagers and pilsners. Manager Dan Glazer is serving these hand-crafted American-style brews at around thirty-eight degrees, several degrees cooler than at its cousin Grizzly Peak. The menu pays homage to American rural classics that go well with cold beer—Carolina pulled pork, smoked beef brisket, braised short ribs.

Such an earnest effort to re-create the good old days in a form that's actually better than they ever were to begin with can mean only one thing: 2mission is on the job again. Greg Lobdell and Jon Carlson are the green-thinking, community-minded developers behind the company that has played a large role in the last decade of downtown redevelopment in Royal Oak, Traverse City, and Ann Arbor. Now all three cities have a Café Habana. Traverse City also has a Blue Tractor. The 2mission flagship in Ann Arbor is the Grizzly Peak, and 2mission owns pieces of many other projects in the three cities.

Mike Hall, 2mission's executive brewer, designed four new beers specifically for Ann Arbor's Blue Tractor: Bumper Crop pale ale, BT light lager, Bearded Pig pilsner, and Sudworth cream ale, named after the building's original owner. "The cream ale," says Glazer, who also manages Cafe Habana next door, "will have a nitrogen tap rather than a carbon dioxide tap—nitrogen makes very small bubbles, very creamy." Lobdell adds that "because it's Ann Arbor, we can do some more adventurous things on the menu than we do in Traverse City."

Glazer says that in addition to the home brews, "we have some cool old-school beers. We'll be selling Carling Black Label, Blatz, Schlitz, Pabst Blue Ribbon, Miller High Life, and Stroh's." Lobdell himself has a special affection for Leinenkugel's: his wife, Andi Hancock Lobdell, is the great-great-granddaughter of Jacob Leinenkugel, founder of the Wisconsin brewery. It isn't available at this Blue Tractor yet, but it is sold at the Traverse City BT.

Blue Tractor BBQ & Brewery, 207 East Washington, 222–4095, Mon.–Sat. 11 a.m.–2 a.m. (kitchen closes 11 p.m. Mon.–Thurs., midnight Fri. & Sat.), Sun. noon–midnight (kitchen closes 10 p.m.). bluetractor.net

Elsewhere on the brewery front, Ron Jeffries, who owns the five-year-old Jolly Pumpkin microbrewery in Dexter, has signed a lease on the old Instant Furniture store on Liberty. One of the original brewmasters at Grizzly Peak, Jeffries is famous for oak-aged Belgian-style ales sold in 750-milliliter (wine-size) bottles at places like Whole Foods and Bello Vino. Exactly what will happen at the Ann Arbor location, and whether it will involve 2mission, is still, says Jeffries, "part of a very fuzzy future timeline," but he and his wife, Laurie, are planning to open some sort of cafe there where they can sell their beer.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Not just diapers anymore: Molly Ging turned Tree City into the Little Seedling and added baby gear.

Beyond diapers

Tree City is now Little Seedling

When a store is called **Tree City Diapers,** people figure it sells nothing but diapers. And when Molly Ging started Tree City Diapers in her basement in 2003 to cater to a growing demand for cloth diapers, diapers were all she sold. But after she opened her first retail space on Jackson Road in 2006, her inventory expanded to include car seats, strollers, cribs, high chairs, toys, bottles, nursing bras, and slings. And people still thought she sold only diapers. So when she moved to a bigger space on Zeeb across from Meijer in November, she changed the store's name to **The Little Seedling.**

Though cloth diapers are no longer the store's only product, they still make up almost half of Ging's sales. The Little Seedling carries fifteen to twenty different

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brands in a wide variety of colors and patterns. The store also hosts monthly workshops to teach parents how to cloth-diaper.

People who've never used cloth diapers imagine a diaper pail in the corner of the nursery, reeking of waste and bleach, but Ging says that cloth diapers actually smell less than disposables because there are no added perfumes and no chemical reaction once wastes hit the diaper. Some customers use cloth diapers because they believe it's a more environmentally sound practice than landfilling disposables; others are motivated by money. Ging estimates that keeping one child in disposable diapers costs $1,500 to $3,000 over three or four years, depending on the brand, but that cloth-diapering the same child will run $300 to $1,000. And unlike disposables, cloth diapers can be reused on another baby.

Some new customers are surprised by one thing the store doesn't stock: diaper pins. Today's soft, colorful cloth diapers have Velcro or snap closures. "You just put it under the baby's bottom, pull it up, Velcro it on. It's really easy to use, a lot like a disposable diaper," Ging says. "The only difference is you wash it instead of throw it away."

The Little Seedling, 355 South Zeeb (Scio Town Center), 418–2392. Mon., Wed., Fri., & Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m.–4 p.m.; Sun. noon–5 p.m. treecitydiapers.com

Big toy-store news

A bigger Mudpuddles and a second Tree Town

Mudpuddles at Kerrytown doubled its size in October by knocking down a wall and taking over the space next door. Stairs had to be added also—the floor next door was three feet higher. "That's because the ceiling on the lower floor is three feet higher," co-owner Jan Benzinger explains. The elevation change, she says, is working out well: "There's always people standing around at both levels playing with things or reading or just sitting on the steps while their kids are playing."

The stock hasn't changed much. "We carry everything we carried before, but more of it," Benzinger says. "For the holidays, we brought in a lot of science because we wanted things for older kids." That includes telescopes, a build-it-yourself solar house kit, chemistry sets, and more: "We never had anything like that before."

Mudpuddles moved into its present location in 2004 from its original space across the hall. But when it started out there in 1989, toys weren't its focus, and Mudpuddles wasn't the name—it was a nature store called Marsh and Fields. In 1994 the owners added a small section called Mudpuddles for Kids, and in 2001 they decided to ditch the nature stuff, change the name, and go totally toys.

Benzinger's tenure at Kerrytown predates Marsh and Fields. "I've actually been in Kerrytown since 1980 in some form or another," she says. "I've had three different stores at Kerrytown now." Her first was FoxFarm Pottery, where she hired Sharon Plumley in 1985. They got along so well they opened Marsh and Fields as co-owners, and remain so at Mudpuddles. "We just eventually decided that kids are a lot cuter than adults and we decided to go with all kids," Benzinger says. "It's a fun business to be in."

Mudpuddles, 407 North Fifth Avenue (Kerrytown Market & Shops), 662–0022. Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

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While Mudpuddles was doubling its space, **Tree Town Toys** was doubling its stores. In early November owners Tricia and Hans Masing, who started the original Tree Town Toys in Traver Village in 2006, opened a second location in Briarwood's Sears wing.

Briarwood doesn't attract many mom-and-pop shops; the rent is steep, and the big chains outadvertise the locals. But the Masings are big on Briarwood—before they opted for the Plymouth Road location, they considered opening their first store there. "We see a lot of strollers there and we see a lot of moms and we've seen a lot of kids," Tricia says, "and we haven't seen a good toy store there for many years."

The Briarwood space is a bit smaller than what they have on Plymouth Road, but they'll carry the same product lines, including Haba wooden toys from Germany, Rokenbok construction toys, and Plan Toys, which are made from the wood of no-longer-productive rubber trees. "We basically have to be a bit more selective about what goes in the space," Tricia says. "We're picking the best of what we have in the current store."

Through Dragonfly Depot, a subsidiary business they started earlier this year, she and Hans fulfill online orders for other mom-and-pop toy stores around the country, giving those stores an Internet presence. The Masings also maintain an online store of their own that predates both of their brick-and-mortar stores: brainstationtoys.com launched in 2004.

Tree Town Toys, Briarwood (near Sears), 929–6545. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–6 p.m. treetowntoys.com

Briefly Noted

The **Glass House Cafe,** which opened in September, sits in a beautiful location—in Palmer Commons, part of the university's life sciences complex on the inside curve of the Huron-Washtenaw junction. The cafe occupies one of the middle floors—the floor called "Plaza" that you tend to end up on if you're wandering haphazardly in the area—but God help you if someone gave you directions. Decorated with spare, polished steel and frosted

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Marketplace Changes *continued*

glass, and warmed by a light-golden wall that looks as if it's crinkled fabric but is actually wood, the dining room with its wall of windows seems to float above Palmer Field (which is actually across the street).

Outsourcing is a dirty word in Rust Belt states, but the U-M has been outsourcing most of its food service for a long time, and where food service is concerned, outsourcing can have the paradoxical effect of forging local connections.

The Glass House Cafe is an outpost of Tecumseh destination restaurant Evans Street Station.

The Glass House Cafe is actually the Ann Arbor outpost of Tecumseh destination restaurant Evans Street Station, which relies strongly on locally grown ingredients from vendors like Calder Dairy, Prochaska Farms, and Eat Local Eat Fresh. Chef Alan Merhar splits his time between here and Tecumseh. The seventy-seat Glass House attracts mostly faculty to its posh breakfast and lunch table service, with lunches like grilled Scottish salmon with pesto orzo and local tomato confit and breakfasts of strawberry crepes with mascarpone and almonds. Students are more drawn to the takeaway counter, open for many more hours, serving much cheaper wraps, sandwiches, snacks, and Starbucks (take-out customers have their own room of tables to sprawl on, with an equally spectacular view).

Rachel Wood, the property manager, came up through Washtenaw Community College's hospitality program; her first big job was at the Lord Fox. Alissa McCool (who married into her name, which she acknowledges is indeed impossibly cool) is the building catering director (the restaurant is often called upon to cater events on the upper floors of the building) and came to Glass House by way of EMU and the Chop House. McCool says the Glass House is certainly open to the public, but she admits few outside the university actually find their way in. She also claims the takeaway counter has "probably some of the best sushi in Ann Arbor."

Glass House Cafe at Palmer Commons, 100 Washtenaw Avenue, 647–3777. Dining room: Mon.–Fri. 7:30 a.m.–2 p.m. Sandwich counter: Mon.–Fri. 7 a.m.–8 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.–3 p.m. glasshousecafe.net

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The showroom of **Être Design** was dark and its doors locked for most of the past year, but the little jewelry store hadn't gone out of business. In fact, business was so good that there wasn't time to open the store except by appointment. "We started as a retail space," says Audrey Chung, who along with her husband, Glen, co-owns Être and a jewelry manufacturing and distribution company called Beliza Design. "Then we landed all these manufacturing gigs, and we had to close [the store] because it was too hard to manage both."

Last month the Chungs moved to a new space near the Colonnade with enough room to handle their booming wholesale business and still keep a small retail showroom up front. Être Design still exists, but now the Chungs are running both operations under the **Beliza Design** name.

The Chungs, both thirty-five, started Être Design in 2002, working out of their home. At the time their day jobs were beginning to bore them—Greg was an engineer at General Motors and was a management consultant to the U-M treasurer's office. So they started looking around for a business of their own. Both had artistic tendencies, so they decided on jewelry. "It's lightweight and something we could both wrap our arms around," Audrey says.

They started out doing the trade show circuit while both were still working full time. At first they thought two people could manage it. They were wrong, but that turned out to be a good thing. Today, Beliza makes anywhere from 65 to 80 percent of the alternative metal—that's titanium, tungsten, and steel—jewelry sold in the United States, and employs 200 workers in a factory in Chagan, Dongguan, China.

Audrey just landed the collegiate license for the U-M after two years of negotiations. So now Beliza is also producing and distributing steel jewelry and other metal products bearing the U-M logo.

Être Design, 905 Eisenhower Circle, suite 104, 794–9847. Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. (tentative). etredesign.com/cgi-bin/contact.cgi

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It took the **Chipotle Mexican Grill** chain fifteen years to come to Ann Arbor. But once it got here, it went viral in just eighteen months. The third Ann Arbor Chipotle opened in October on South State, bringing monster-size "gourmet" burritos, tacos, salads, and Tex-Mex "bowls" to campus. The new location sports the chain's trademark clean, urban aesthetic, achieved by a combination of steel, concrete, unfinished metals, birch-veneered plywood, high-tech light fixtures, and bouncy acoustics.

Chipotle's biggest claim to fast-food fame is its commitment to serving naturally raised meats and a sizable percentage of organically grown beans. And because all the dairy products come from cows that haven't been treated with recombinant bovine growth hormone (rBGH), the cheese is green, too.

Chipotle Mexican Grill, 235 South State, 794–0800. Daily 11 a.m.–10 p.m. chipotle.com

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When Ismail Houmani opened his first cigar store in 1996, he didn't smoke cigars. He just wanted in on the action. "In 1996, the cigar business was booming," he says, so he opened his first **La Casa de la Ha-**

bana in Plymouth. "After I opened the store, I fell in love with cigars."

"La Casa de la Habana" is Spanish for "The House of Havana." While the store doesn't actually carry Cuban cigars, it did well enough that Houmani, forty-one, opened a second location in Toledo a few years later. In November he was expecting to open his third store on Jackson Road in front of the Studio 16 theaters by the end of the month.

Cigars range from $5 to $25 apiece, and Houmani also carries accessories like desktop humidors, cigar cutters, and an array of stylish lighters that carry labels like Lotus, Bugatti, and Lamborghini (under license from the carmakers) and range from $50 all the way up to $4,000. Folks who can afford that may also be interested in the private cigar club that shares the store's space—for $100 a month, he'll register your thumbprint on the biometric scanner that unlocks the massive, eight-foot-tall oak door. "I really wanted to open something special for cigar smokers only," Houmani says, "where members can come in, sit down, relax, and smoke cigars without being bothered by anyone and without bothering anyone else."

La Casa de la Habana, 3780 Jackson Road, suite A (in front of Quality 16 Theaters), 929–4382. Mon.–Sat. 9 a.m.–11 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.–8 p.m. lacasadelahabana.com

NYPD is slowly and carefully franchising its New York–style pizza. While the two campus locations will continue to be called NYPD (short for New York Pizza Depot), there are now three locations of **Uncle D's,** as the franchise is called: in Bloomington (Indiana), in Ypsilanti, and the newest one, which opened over the summer inside **Tippins** party store on Ann Arbor–Saline Road.

"The main goal is not to open up like mushrooms," says Maurizio Grillo, the NYPD partner who came here directly from Tuscany. "Most people hear 'franchise' and they think it's some big corporation, but this is just small, just our family." The other two NYPD / Uncle D's partners, Grillo's cousins Mauro and Domenico Telemaco, used to own a pizza joint in New York and came to Ann Arbor to start the business in 1997 at the behest of Domenico's then-girlfriend, now-wife, Erin.

Reggie Kaji (pronounced "Cagey"), the manager at Tippins, says it took about four months to turn what used to be the deli counter into a pizza bakery (a slightly stripped-down version of the deli counter now lives on the other side of the store). "Spicy Mediterranean [chicken, feta cheese, and artichokes] is by far the best-selling pie," says Kaji. "Myself, I just like pepperoni. I'm not big on a lot of toppings." The pizza operation, including the seating area, takes up 1,400 square feet. "We had the seating area before," he says, "but now we have more people sitting in it."

Uncle D's at Tippins, 4845 Ann Arbor–Saline Road, 665–1111. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–10 p.m., Sun. noon–9 p.m. (party store opens earlier).

Closings

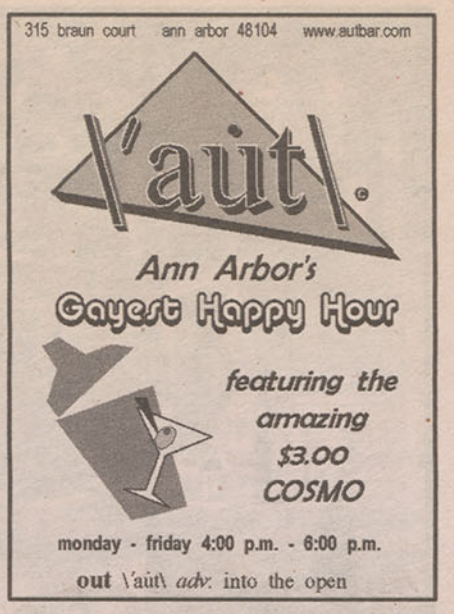
Not much was left of **Linens 'n Things** the first week of November. The bankrupt chain was down to selling the crown moldings 'n things. Tom Goldberg, of landlord ATMF, says he hasn't yet signed a new tenant for the Waters Place space between Best Buy and Borders. **Wilsons Leather** in Briarwood also closed because of corporate bankruptcy.

There is no clear consensus on what happened to **Sarah's Campus Dollar Store** on South University. Sarah Perry closed up shop in October hardly a year after opening, and the space has been leased to someone else. Mike Moeller at Motivation Boutique thought she also had a cleaning business on the side and might have expanded that: "She said she was going to come by and say good-bye, and she never did." Another neighbor "heard she got a job in her field" (she has a kinesiology degree from the U-M). Moeller says South U hasn't been particularly affected by the economy. The same number of students are walking around, and his store "had our best month ever last month."

Ana Banana left South University for Nickels Arcade a little over a year ago, and in October the Pinheiro twins from Brazil, Ana and Claudia, dissolved their store. Ana Banana was a mix of new and vintage clothing, jewelry, and accessories and had played host to everything from enthusiastic samba dancing to Brazilian waxing by Ana. Next door, Tiffany Royal, who owns Arcade Barbers, says, "They were always doing something"—but adds, "I would assume the rent was way more here than on South U" (their space there was upstairs).

Chris and Cathy Misener will take **Deda's Bakery** with them when they move to Washington State the first week of December. The couple bought Say Cheese Cheesecakes in 2006, added other baked goods, and changed the name to Deda's. Last summer they bought the former Fuji restaurant in Braun Court, where they planned to open a bakery and cafe. Then plans changed—they decided instead to move to Vancouver, Washington, where they will be living in Chris's late father's house while they settle his estate; they'll operate Deda's Bakery across the river in Portland, Oregon. Chris says he hoped to sell the Say Cheese name and recipes in Ann Arbor but found no takers; he plans to start selling cheesecakes by mail order in a few months. The Braun Court building is up for sale.

Got a retail or restaurant change? Send email to sallymitani@gmail.com or tonymcreynolds@tds.net, or leave voicemail at 769–3175, extension 320.



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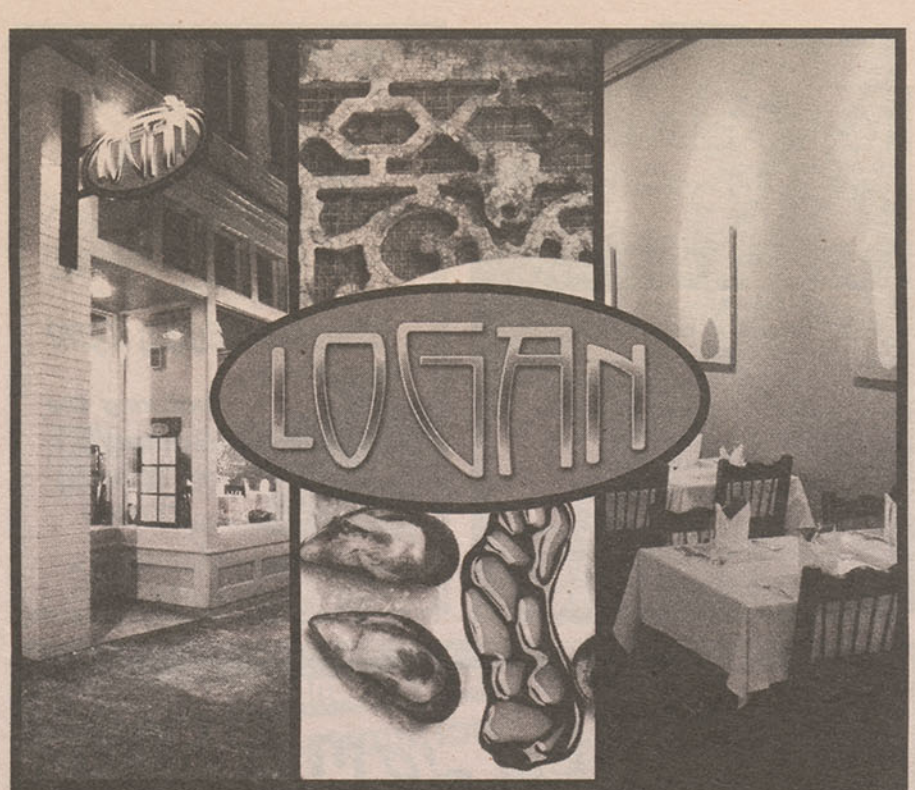

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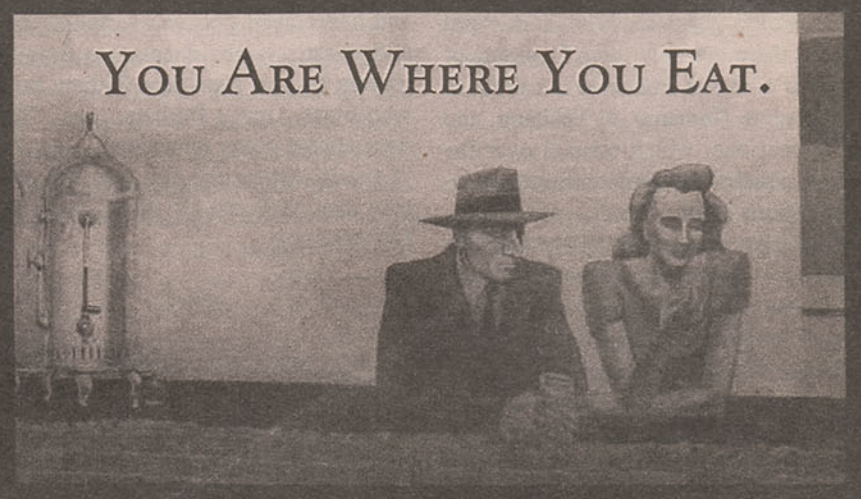

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The Black Pearl

Work in progress

I'm having trouble with my metaphors here. I want to say that walking into a restaurant for the first time is a blind date. But if you had as bad a first date as we did on our initial outing at the Black Pearl, it would likely have been your last. So maybe the better imagery here is about second chances—things can get better.

Admittedly, we hit it early. We'd been watching this Main Street space for months as banners in the window promised "Coming soon." Ratcheting hopes that high increases the temptation to put a place to the test too soon. And then there was a matter of emphasis: I'd been looking forward to the *seafood* part of what's officially called the Black Pearl Seafood & Martini Bar—but early on, its accent was more on the *bar*.

One step into the long, narrow room and there was no doubt: this is definitely a bar. I'm starting to think of its creator, John Janviriya, as the Christopher Nolan of restaurant design: Janviriya creates these dark and moody spaces—cerebral, modern, and a little decadent. That's true of both the Black Pearl and his first Ann Arbor creation, Mélange. But the Black Pearl is rougher around the edges than Mélange—louder and less sensual than its subterranean sibling, with no standouts in the black-on-black decor. Lined with black slate tiles on the floor and up one wall, padded on the other wall with tufted black velvet, furnished with black chairs and tables, the room is focused on a sleek black granite bar, above which rattan ceiling fans rotate hypnotically.

I stopped by on opening night and cajoled the hostess out of a menu. That's when I got my first "uh-oh" feeling. The least expensive appetizer, the creatively spelled "pommes fritts," was $7. Most of the starters were in the $10–$15 range—more than many of the sandwiches. A bowl of clam chowder was $11. Huh?

We went back a few weeks later to actually try the food. Drinks—for me, a glass chosen from a short, dull, uninformative wine list; for my friends, fancy martinis like the "pearcicle" with pear vodka and elderflower liqueur—carried us through till the appetizers arrived. We'd ordered a few starters to split, which, unfortunately for our table of four, came mostly in groupings of three. The garlic shrimp were plump and perfectly sautéed but had just the barest trace of garlic flavor. The oysters in the bacony oysters Rockefeller were overpowered by lumpy lardoons and a shaggy coat of spinach covered with a hardened clump of Parmesan. The simple raw oysters were good—fresh and slippery—although I wish our server had been able to supply us with more information about what varieties we were getting (according to the menu, the trio consists of one Chesapeake and two "rotating oysters"). That $7 cone of

JOHN COPLEY

french fries was a generous portion, but the standardized potatoes didn't distinguish themselves enough to be featured as a separate appetizer.

We never order two of the same dish, so there was a minor duel at our table as to who would get the cioppino. But when the winner put in her bid, the server replied with a grimace, "Oh, I really can't recommend the cioppino. They haven't got that recipe right yet." Of the four entrees we eventually did order, only one, a sesame-encrusted seared tuna, was above par, perfectly seared on the outside and savagely pink in the middle. A $25 *petit filet* was tender but minuscule and overcooked, and accompanied by lumpy mashed potatoes. A good-sized portion of sea bass was neatly roasted but cradled in some kind of orange-colored sweetish glop. Scallops were crusted with a spice blend that overwhelmed their characteristic sweet flavor, and then bathed in a "chiptle burr blanc" sauce that tasted as if the cream had gone off. At least I didn't spill the whole sloppy plate of scallops that the busboy had me hold above my head while he cleared off the appetizer dishes. This was one time I was grateful a kitchen had failed to warm a plate.

The server seemed overjoyed when we came to dessert. "The good news is they're all made by Zingerman's!" she said. The bad news was the bill, which came to $260 before the tip. No wonder there's an ATM in the foyer.

On our next visit, we tried some of the nonseafood sandwiches: a shaved prime rib and a Kobe burger. The burger was very good—quality beef, grilled to order, served on a Zingerman's roll—but was accompanied by those forgettable frites. We also split a plate of crab Rangoon as an appetizer—five crisp wontons filled with a molten center of crab. This brought our food bill to more than $40, which seems to be overreaching for two sandwiches and a plate of stuffed wontons—or at least those particular sandwiches and wontons.

However, the Black Pearl's people were clearly getting their act together—because by our next trip, about seven weeks after the opening, they'd fiddled with the menu again. On the downside, that wine list remained uninspired, and they'd tacked on an additional dollar to the price of a good half dozen items. But they were finally offering soups in two sizes, with corresponding prices, so I didn't feel too guilty about ordering a cup of lobster bisque. It was delicious, with booming lobster flavor underscored by fennel and cognac and studded with meaty chunks of sweet crustacean. Then we went with a cold plate from the raw-bar selection—these are ordered by the piece, so they can suit any constellation of guests. We devoured fat prawns with spicy house-made ketchup and a mound of pristine lump crab. The waitress was able to help steer our oyster choices—very smooth Chesapeakes and distinctively briny, almost smoky West Coast Hama Hamas with a dash of mignonette sauce. I had another appetizer for my main course: the crab cakes. They were something of a disappointment with too much mushy filler mucking up the texture, although the flavor and presentation were beautiful.

My husband hit the jackpot with fish tacos. Built around tilapia, which worked surprisingly well here with a piquant rub and precision cooking, the fish was nestled in a fresh crisp corn tortilla, dressed with a spicy slaw and chipotle mayo. The waitress told us the kitchen had just tweaked the recipe. "I could sell them all night," she said. "These things walk themselves out of here."

Every newcomer needs at least one big hit on the menu, and the Black Pearl found it in those fish tacos. Finally, price and quality were meeting in a more agreeable equation. Almost two months in, the service was markedly better as well—efficient and informed.

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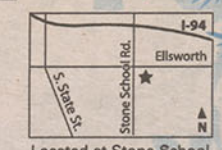

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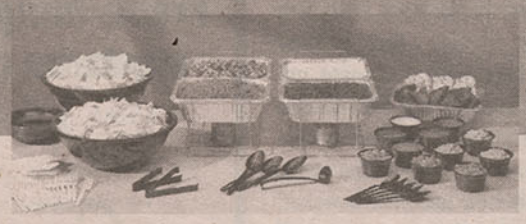
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I haven't exactly fallen for the Black Pearl, but it's moving steadily toward fulfilling a promising concept—seafood and spirits in a casual atmosphere—which I believe is a good one for Main Street. It certainly has the right real estate, and now that food and service appear to be falling in line, I'm already looking forward to fish tacos on the patio next summer.

The Black Pearl
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Quick Bites

Okay, it's a Saturday night and neither of you feels like cooking, so your sweetie proposes a big night out at . . . the grocery store?

Not exactly the height of romance. Or perhaps it is, if your idea of romance includes a fondness for a glass of very good wine at a very reasonable price. That's what we found on a recent Saturday at the wine bar in the Cranbrook Village Whole Foods.

Whole Foods Market Wine and Beer Bar is a glistening U-shaped counter nestled between the cheese and wine sections. The drinks menu is simple: a couple of beers, including a local one from Arbor Brewing Company, and a selection of wines—several midrange as well as high-end reds and whites, and always a few from Michigan. We splurged—it was, after all, Saturday night—and went for the Bogle Phantom Petite Sirah for $5 and the Ken Wright Chardonnay at $9 for a four-ounce pour. I enjoyed that Wright Chard, but what I really liked was that this is the same wine for which I grudgingly paid $18 a glass on Main Street a few months ago. To go with, we chose cheeses from the dairy case, splurging again with a Jasper Hill Farm Bayley Hazen blue cheese that was a superb little bundle of tanginess, and a sliver of creamy Brillat-Savarin, named for the secular saint of French gastronomy, as well as some fancy crackers (the barkeep set us up with plates and utensils). Although I love a bargain, the overall experience was a little flat with nobody but us at the bar.

We went back during the week for a "rush-hour-relief tasting." These are held Thursdays from five to seven o'clock and often feature a particular varietal or theme as well as a foursome of cheeses. We hit the Sauvignon Blanc trial—$17 for four two-ounce pours and paired with a superb cheese quartet that included goat's Gouda and Cheddar, chèvre with fennel pollen and lavender, and a creamy soft cheese from Cowgirl Creamery.

For dinner, the Cranbrook Village Whole Foods has multiple hot and cold bars offering eighty-plus dishes and ten hot soups, as well as sushi and cooked-to-order rice and noodle bowls. In general, I find the food fresh, of very high quality, and often too bland. The vast selection requires experimentation, but there are rewards for diligence—in my case, tender, spicy teriyaki chicken and Vietnamese spring rolls with peanut sauce. For dessert, try the gelato bar; every flavor I sampled was very, very good.

—Bix Engels

Send quips, tips, and comments on local restaurants to the Bix Tip Line at bixtips@comcast.net.

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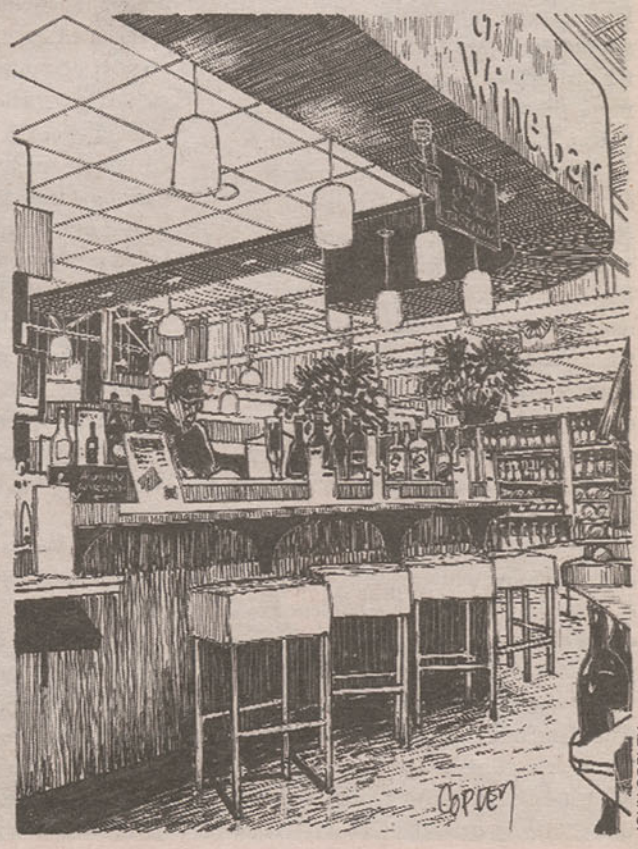
JOHN COPLEY

table talk

The year's not quite over, but I'm going out on a limb and naming as the most contentious restaurant closing of 2008 the demise of Kerrytown's **Lunch at Everyday Cook.** It made headlines by putting the spotlight on the arcane process of awarding a liquor license, which the restaurant's owner, Mary Campbell, had unsuccessfully sought. The licensing hubbub overshadowed the loss of a uniquely charming space and culinarily exciting kitchen. When Everyday Lunch served its last meal on June 21, I was among the sad customers who went for one final repast.

Now fans of its fare can take heart. Chefs Brendan McCall and Jay Haamen, the creative forces behind the stove at Everyday Cook, are back at Kerrytown—though in a different, more transportable format. McCall and Haamen's catering company, **A Knife's Work** (aknifeswork.com), is assembling well-crafted takeaway meals, which are sold at Campbell's store, Everyday Wines.

McCall, twenty-six, told me that he and Haamen, twenty-five, take a free-form approach, creating weekly menus based on what's fresh and local and what they feel like cooking. This spontaneity, says McCall, helps them keep a "direct connection to people and to the seasons."

One week's fare in November was based on the spice trail meandering from Asia to the Mediterranean. "It's a coherent menu without being thematic, like all French or all Italian," says McCall. I took home some of that spice-route menu, and it was phenomenal. A delicate trout mousse, spiced with Thai chilies and fresh mint, was paired with a tomato-and-red-onion salad. A fork-tender pork shoulder got its flavor cue from smoky *pimentón* and Amontillado sherry. Their Moorish chickpea stew topped with Swiss chard managed to be both vegan and exotically delicious, a rare feat that involved garlic, cumin, and more smoked paprika. Entrees are priced at $10–$14; sides are $6–$8.

This is a Kerrytown collaboration: T. R. Durham, of Durham's Tracklements, allows the young caterers to use his commercial kitchen facilities in off-hours. Much of the meat comes from Sparrow Meat Market. And the food, boxed up in environmentally friendly containers, is sold at Everyday Wines, where Mary Campbell and Giri Iyengar help find the right wine pairing for each dish.

—B.E.

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by Sally Bjork

Iggy Pop played here.

To enter this month's I Spy contest, use the clue above and photo at right to find the spot shown, and send your entry to the address at the bottom of the page.

"My 'educated' guess [for November's I Spy] is the Ann Arbor Open at Mack School, 920 Miller Road," wrote Alice Ralph, correctly identifying it as "one of many school buildings used for polling places." David Shoup agreed: "This is not my polling place, but we live right across the street and our kids go to school there." Holly Eliot, who also lives across the street, recalled when she herself was a student at Mack: "My sixth-grade classroom was behind the sundial at the top of the building. That classroom had no windows . . . but had a [slanted] skylight [that] pigeons would land on . . . and slide down, which was amusing." Pigeons would also coo outside a ventilator hood on the side of the building. "Our itinerant French teacher accused us of making the noises, declaring us 'the worst-behaved class in Ann Arbor,'" Eliot wrote.

Ten entries were received in November, including one from Ted Kennedy (of Ann Arbor) and two from the Keller household—Rick and Sharilyn. Rick Keller won our random drawing; he will receive a copy of *A History of Ann Arbor,* by Jonathan L. Marwil.

fake ad

by Jay Forstner

Never pay ATM fees again!

One, two, even three dollars at a time, ATM surcharges can really add up. Stop paying all that money to banks that aren't even yours with Moneybags, the at-home, do-it-yourself solution to personal cash management. Made of recycled paper and able to securely hold hundreds, even thousands of dollars, Moneybags are completely collapsible—so you can store them in a safe, in the cookie jar, even under your mattress. No more driving to the ATM every time you need cash—and no more unnecessary charges on your statement.

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Available at fine retailers throughout Ann Arbor.
Web orders can be placed at www.moneybags.ca.

November's Fake Ad (p. 99) for Moneybags, a product that facilitates keeping your money under your mattress, was so timely that it's a surprise we created it months ago. It just goes to show that the more things change, the more you need a place to store your change.

Alicia Dawson, who submitted one of the 173 correct entries, wrote, "Not only is it a ridiculous (and terribly insecure) way of saving money, the website had a .ca extension, indicating it's a Canadian site. Maybe it's an ingenious idea from our friends to the north to have our houses filled with cash so they can one day cross the bridge for a free-for-all looting?"

The Fake Ad Czar, who hails from the Great White North himself, admits Dawson's scenario is a possibility, but it might be just the stimulus program the economy needs. After all, no self-respecting Canadian with a trunkload of ill-gotten Moneybags would be able to resist a bit of cross-border shopping before heading for home.

Susan Williamson won our random drawing. She's taking her gift certificate to the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea.

To enter, identify the December Fake Ad by name and page number and let us know at the address below—watching for the magic word *arborweb,* the name of an Observer website and your clue that you've found the Fake Ad. The winner of our random drawing will receive a $25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue.

Send separate entries to Fake Ad or I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. *Fax:* (734) 769–3375. *Email:* backpage@aaobserver.com. You must include your name, address, and telephone number! All correct entries received in the Observer office by noon on Wednesday, December 10, will be eligible for the December drawings.

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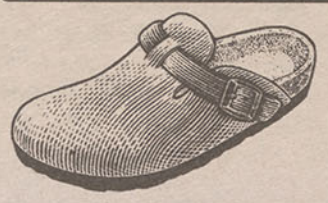

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Events at a Glance

A capsule guide to selected major events in December. See p. 39 for daily events listings and a complete listing of this month's Gallery, Nightspots, and Events reviews. Events marked with an asterisk (*) are listed in Nightspots, which begins on p. 72.

Pop, Rock, Blues, & Jazz

- *Shelby Lynne (country), Dec. 1
- *Mad Agnes (singer-songwriters), Dec. 2
- *Jonatha Brooke (singer-songwriter), Dec. 4
- *John Brown's Body (reggae), Dec. 4
- U-M Compulsive Lyres (a cappella), Dec. 5
- U-M Harmonettes (a cappella), Dec. 5
- Fourth Wish (jazz), Dec. 5
- Don White (singer-songwriter), Dec. 5
- *Rory Block (blues), Dec. 5
- *Mr. B, Steve Nardella, & George Bedard (blues & roots-rock), Dec. 5
- U-M Friars (a cappella), Dec. 6
- Bolcom & Morris (American song), Dec. 6
- *Lucy Kaplansky (singer-songwriter), Dec. 6
- *Bruce Katz Band (R&B), Dec. 6
- Chaverim B'Shirim (pop chorus), Dec. 7
- *Glen Phillips (singer-songwriter), Dec. 7
- *Riders in the Sky (cowboy), Dec. 8
- *Shawn Colvin (singer-songwriter), Dec. 9
- *Adrian Legg (guitar virtuoso), Dec. 10
- U-M Groove (a cappella), Dec. 12
- *RFD Boys (bluegrass), Dec. 12
- Scott McWhinney (singer-songwriter), Dec. 13
- *George Bedard, Billy Kirchen, & Sarah Brown (roots-rock), Dec. 13
- *"Concert for Peace" (local singer-songwriters), Dec. 14
- *Mississippi Heat (blues), Dec. 15
- *Tuck & Patti (pop-jazz), Dec. 16
- *Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band (calypso & reggae), Dec. 18
- *Steve Lucky & Carmen Getit (jump blues & swing), Dec. 20
- *Tim Ries (jazz), Dec. 27
- Kerrytown Concert House "Improvising in the New Year" (jazz), Dec. 30
- *Chenille Sisters (pop-folk), Dec. 31

Ethnic & Traditional Music

- Saline Fiddlers Restrung (folk), Dec. 7
- *Lee Murdock (Great Lakes folk), Dec. 11
- Katie Geddes & Friends (folk), Dec. 12
- *Joel Mabus (folk), Dec. 19
- *Finvarra's Wren (Celtic), Dec. 20
- *"Crossroads Ceili" (Irish), Dec. 27 & 28

Comedy & Performance Art

- Comic Tom Simmons, Dec. 4–6
- Comic Jimmy Pardo, Dec. 11–13
- Comic Tim Foss, Dec. 18–20
- Comic Billy Ray Bauer, Dec. 26 & 27
- Comic Tim O'Rourke, Dec. 31

Theater, Opera, & Dance

- *Apartment 3A* (Purple Rose Theatre), Dec. 3–7, 10–14, & 16–20
- *A Christmas Carol* (Emergent Arts), Dec. 4–7 & 11–14
- *Pride and Prejudice* (U-M Theatre Department), Dec. 4–7
- *Ruddigore; or, The Witch's Curse* (U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society), Dec. 4–7
- *Geoffrey & Jeffrey* (Performance Network), Dec. 4–7, 11–14, 18–21, & 25–28
- *The Nutcracker* (Youth Dance Theatre), Dec. 5–7
- *Coppelia* (EMU Dance Program), Dec. 5
- *The Snow Queen* (EMU Theatre Department), Dec. 5 & 6
- Japanese Butoh dancer Kumotaro Mukai, Dec. 5 & 6
- U-M Dance Department Dance & Related Arts Concert, Dec. 5 & 6
- *The Nutcracker* (Ypsilanti Area Dancers), Dec. 6 & 7
- *American Visions* (U-M Residential College Drama Concentration), Dec. 7
- *The Great Russian Nutcracker* (Moscow Ballet), Dec. 9
- *Henry IV, Part 1* (Greenhills School). Dec. 11 & 12
- *Born Yesterday* (P.T.D. Productions), Dec. 11–14 & 18–20
- *The Nutcracker* (Dance Alliance), Dec. 14
- *The Nutcracker* (Ann Arbor Ballet Theater), Dec. 19–21
- *Murder, Hope* (Dreamland Theater), Dec. 19

Lectures & Readings

- Poet Honor Moore, Dec. 1
- Poet Adam Zagajewski, Dec. 4
- Poets Marty McConnell & Tim Seibles, Dec. 11
- Poet Thomas Lynch, Dec. 11

Classical & Religious Music

- Measure for Measure men's chorus & U-M Men's Glee Club, Dec. 5
- Today's Brass Quintet, Dec. 6
- Sacred Song chorus, Dec. 6
- University Choral Union *Messiah,* Dec. 6 & 7
- Tuba Christmas, Dec. 7
- Willis Patterson Our Own Thing Chorale, Dec. 7
- St. Thomas Catholic Church Festival of Lessons & Carols, Dec. 7
- Ann Arbor Youth Chorale, Dec. 7
- Ypsilanti Community Band & Community Choir, Dec. 11
- Boe, Requiro, & Harding chamber trio, Dec. 11
- Boychoir of Ann Arbor, Dec. 12 & 13
- Women's Chamber Chorus, Dec. 12
- Dexter Community Band, Dec. 14
- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Festival of Lessons & Carols, Dec. 14
- Violinist Yehonatan Berick & pianist Jean-Francois Latour, Dec. 14
- The Black House Ceilidh folk & classical chamber ensemble, Dec. 19
- Vocal Arts Ensemble, Dec. 20
- Community *Messiah* Sing, Dec. 21
- Soprano Norma Gentile, Dec. 21
- First Presbyterian Church Lessons & Carols, Dec. 24
- Northside Church Lessons & Carols, Dec. 24
- First Baptist Church Festival of Lessons & Carols, Dec. 24
- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Festival Prelude, Dec. 24

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Holiday bazaars, Dec. 4, 6, 7, 13
- Chelsea Hometown Holiday, Dec. 5–7
- Main Street Festive Friday Nights, Dec. 5, 12, & 19
- Concordia University Boar's Head Festival, Dec. 5 & 6
- Waterloo Area Farm Museum Christmas, Dec. 6
- Kempf House German Family Christmas, Dec. 6, 7, 13, & 14
- Ypsilanti Holiday Homes Tour, Dec. 6 & 7
- Cobblestone Farm Country Christmas, Dec. 7
- Rentschler Farm Museum Christmas, Dec. 13 & 14
- Children's Russian Club Cultural Show, Dec. 13
- Anthroposophical Society Christmas Festival, Dec. 13
- Chabad House Hanukkah Wonderland, Dec. 21–29
- Alebrije Productions Tradicional Pastorela Mexicana, Dec. 21

Family & Kids' Stuff

- Ralph's World family concert, Dec. 6
- Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra Sing-Along with Santa, Dec. 6
- Kiwanis Christmas Sing, Dec. 7
- *A Christmas Carol* (Wild Swan Theater), Dec. 10–14
- Beatrix Potter's *The Tailor of Gloucester* (Theatre IV), Dec. 13
- *Maureen Schiffman and Coco* (Performance Network Children's Theater Network), Dec. 20

Miscellaneous

- Washtenaw Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count, Dec. 20

"Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

- Zingerman's Roadhouse "Erster Dinner" with oyster guru Jon Rowley, Dec. 9

The Mouse Ate the House

Merriweather Matthew Mouse accompanies Sheila Pursglove to readings of her new holiday book for children, *The Mouse Ate the House,* December 5, 6, and 20.

ANN ARBOR Downtown

MIDNIGHT MADNESS

Friday, December 5th

It's fun, it's festive, it's ON SALE! Stores open late! Santa's on duty! Live sidewalk entertainment from 7 to 10pm! Visit www.mainstreetannarbor.org for entertainment details.

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FESTIVE FRIDAY NIGHTS

November 28th thru December 19th

Choirs, carolers, pipers, and more on the sidewalk from 7 to 9pm.

SANTA'S MAILBOX

Santa's Mailbox will be ready to take your child's letters to Santa on Friday, November 21! Located at 332 S. Ashley in front of Red Shoes from November 21 until December 19.
Postage to the North Pole compliments of the Main Street Area Association!

UMS PRESENTS: HANDEL'S *MESSIAH*

Saturday, December 6 at 8 pm & Sunday, December 7 at 2 pm

An Ann Arbor area tradition with UMS Choral Union and the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra
Jerry Blackstone, Conductor • Hill Auditorium • Tickets: $10-$32
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